MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 MARCH 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

In an offensive launched at dawn on 22 March, Iranian forces destroyed the main Iraqi forces west of Shush and Dezful, a communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed. Two Iraqi divisions and 3 brigades were smashed and over 10,000 Iraqis were killed or wounded, according to the communique. Over 1,200 sq km of Iranian territory, including the 'Eyn Khosh garrison and the towns of Emamzadeh 'Abbas and Dasht-e 'Abbas, were liberated in the offensive, IRNA said. It added that 60 Iraqi tanks were destroyed and that the captured Iraqis included a general and a few colonels. Fifty Iranians were killed and over 300 wounded, and 3,000 Iraqi prisoners were evacuated behind the fronts, IRNA continued. It also said Iranian jets and helicopters carried out 48 attacks against Iraqi positions near 'Abu Soleqbi-Khat, 20 km west of Shush. Citing IRNA, Tehran radio said the Iranian Air Force downed one Iraqi MiG and one Mirage, and air defense units shot down two MiGs. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni congratulated the troops in an announcer-read speech on Tehran radio.

An Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio admitted that the enemy had launched a large-scale offensive, but said that in the fierce battle Iran sustained many casualties and losses in materiel. Iraqi aircraft flew 159 combat missions and Iraqi helicopters 24 missions in the Dezful and Shush areas, all returning safely to base, according to the communique, which added that an Iranian fighter plane was downed by Iraqi antiaircraft units.

Israel

West Bank Disturbances -- One Ramallah resident was killed and two were injured when IDF soldiers fired to disperse demonstrators, Jerusalem radio reported. Other disturbances occurred in Al-Jazalun and Nabulus, the radio said, and the general strike continued in the major towns of Judaea and Samaria. Al-Birah municipal workers continued to strike after being driven by the military government to their offices, and police likewise tried to prevent the strike in east Jerusalem by driving businessmen to their shops.

IDF Central Command Commander Maj Gen Ori Or said in remarks broadcast by the radio that Israeli citizens seen on television shooting in Al-Birah had earlier escorted a schoolchildren's bus that was stoned by Arabs. However, the IDF should not give tear gas grenades to civilians, Or said, and if any soldiers have done so, they will be punished. In a speech to Likud activists reported by ITIM, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said the unrest in Judaea and Samaria stems from the terrorist organizations' feeling that they are losing ground there. According to Sharon, hundreds of thousands of people in those areas are expected to stand up and shake loose of the PLO.

Relations with Egypt -- Reporting on the 21 March Cabinet meeting, MA'ARIV said the ministers agreed that if Egypt rejects Israel's proposed method for settling remaining border disputes, the Cabinet may reach the "dramatic" decision that there will be no further withdrawal from the Sinai unless the matter of the final border demarcation has been settled. According to MA'ARIV, Prime Minister Menahem Begin reemphasized that if the Egyptians refuse to conduct the autonomy talks in Jerusalem the talks will not be conducted at all. However, Begin subsequently expressed reservations about Ambassador to Washington Moshe Arens' remarks that if there is no progress in the autonomy negotiations, Israel will have to apply its law to Judaea and Samaria, Jerusalem radio reported. Begin said Israel will not take any unilateral step in the territories before the end of the 5-year transitional period provided for in the Camp David accords.

Meanwhile, the Joint Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee drew up a final timetable for the handing over the Sinai to Egypt, according to Jerusalem radio.

No-Confidence Motions -- Jerusalem radio said the Alignment's no-confidence motion criticizes the government in general terms, while the Hadash and Shinuy motions criticize government policy in the occupied territories. The Tehiya faction will probably support the Alignment in the vote, which is due on 23 March, according to the radio.

Egypt

AL-JUMHURIYAH called on Israel to enter the autonomy negotiations with a new mentality of recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, according to Cairo radio's 23 March press review. The paper said the disturbances in the West Bank have reaffirmed to Israel that armed repression is an unsound method of dealing with the Palestinians. The previous day, the radio reported that AL-AHRAM said Israel's disbandment of the Al-Birah council was the reason for the tension in the West Bank.

Jordan-PLO

A Palestinian delegation, including Fatah Central Committee members Khalil al-Wazir and Hani al-Hasan and two PLO Executive Committee members, arrived in Amman for a meeting of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee for occupied territories affairs, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported.

Lebanon

Security Situation -- An Iraqi diplomat was shot dead in Beirut, according to Beirut radio. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that clashes resumed in the south between the Shi'ite Amal movement and its leftist and Palestinian opponents. In the northern town of Tripoli, 300 policemen were welcomed by citizens when they moved in to assume security duties, Beirut radio reported.

UNIFIL officers said automatic weapons were fired at unidentified helicopters overflying the south, Jerusalem radio noted. The IDF spokesman denied any Israeli helicopters activity in the area, the radio said.

PLO Proposal on South -- The PLO has submitted a working paper to the Arab League committee on the south that calls on Arab states to immediately send joint Arab forces to defend southern Lebanon, SANA reported.

Syria

TISHRIN Warning -- Israel is preparing to launch a new aggression, the broad lines of which have been drawn up in the White House, a TISHRIN article reported by SANA warned. To pave the way for this aggression, the paper said, Israel has intensified its presence along the Lebanese border, backed Sa'd Haddad's forces with U.S. mercenaries, opened new roads inside Lebanon to facilitate invasion, and given the green light to Lebanese Front military commander Bashir al-Jumayyil to explode the situation in Lebanon.

Opposition Groups -- Several religious and nationalist opposition groups have joined forces to draft a charter of national alliance for the liberation of Syria which aims to overthrow the current regime, AFP reported citing Muslim fundamentalist leader 'Ali Bayanuni. He said the new coalition comprises the Muslim Brotherhood, the pro-Iraqi wing of the Ba'th Party, the Arab Socialist Party, the Islamic Front and independent political figures.

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GULF AFFAIRS

GCC SECRETARY DENIES AID TO SYRIA DISCUSSED

GF201933 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Mar (WAKH) -- GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah has denied press reports that the GCC Ministerial Council discussed the issue of stopping aid by GCC countries to Syria during its meeting on 7 March. In a statement to QNA in Riyadh, the GCC secretary general has said this report is not true. He said the council did not discuss the issue, and added that such reports only result in splitting the Arab nation, which cannot stand any more divisions. He hoped truth would be observed in broadcasting reports that could have such a serious and negative influence on united Arab action.

BAHRAIN

PRIME MINISTER, AMIR CITED ON ARAB SPLIT

PM191413 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Mar 82 p 7

[Interview with Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah in Manama by Eric Rouleau: "Egypt Will Be Welcomed With Open Arms When It Wishes To Rejoin Arab Family" -- date not given]

[Text] Manama (Bahrain) -- "Egypt will be able to rejoin the Arab family when it deems fit and it will be welcomed with open arms." Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah answered our questions with authority even when they were addressed to head of state Amir 'Isa ibn Salman, his elder brother, who was sitting beside him. The informal conversation took place in the head of state's state office in the presence of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak and Mr Tariq al-Mu'ayyad, foreign minister and information minister respectively. The sovereign, who prefers to limit himself to the role of arbiter, expressed the wish that the Arab nation will consolidate its unity in order to encourage the establishment of peace in the Near East. He stated several times that an exchange of visits at the highest level between Bahraini and French leaders is "vital" to a better mutual understanding.

During a second interview the prime minister explained his government's foreign policy in detail, with a degree of frankness which will certainly cause, if not a stir, at least surprise in some Arab capitals. In view of the close relations which Bahrain has with Saudi Arabia there is reason to think that those official statements reflect to a large extent the opinion of the Riyadh leaders and probably that of most of the "moderate" Arab regime. The Bahraini leader clearly thinks it is time to end the sanction imposed on Egypt following the peace it concluded with Israel.

"I will tell you my innermost thoughts," Shaykh Al Khalifah began. "From the time he came to power until his death As-Sadat sincerely served his country and the whole Arab world. He was a selfless man. It is necessary to be honest and say out loud that he always supported us without asking for anything in return and he always kept us informed of all the steps he took, down to the smallest detail. We hoped he would succeed in the task which he had set himself, namely the conclusion of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Near East. Unfortunately President Carter abandoned him en route, thus dealing a serious blow to the region's security and stability."

The Bahraini prime minister then attacked the "hypocrisy" of a large part of the Arab press which, after relentlessly condemning As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, is now heaping admiration on Husni Mubarak, his successor. "The new Egyptian president is certainly a marvelous man," he stated, "but let us be consistent: Is he not faithfully pursuing As-Sadat's policy? So why this different treatment? The truth is that Egypt is an integral part of the Arab nation, which cannot do without it. Many governments in the region want it to rejoin the Arab League without imposing unrealistic and humiliating conditions on it. It is up to Mr Mubarak to choose the moment he deems appropriate. In any case we are all impatiently awaiting the withdrawal from Sinai next month."

Although the government chief limited himself to generalities on that subject, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak gave more details. "It goes without saying," he told us, "that it would be difficult for Egypt to rejoin if it made do with the first section of the Camp David agreements, which related to the separate peace with Israel, while refraining from pursuing the road leading to a general and final settlement giving satisfaction to the Palestinians.

In that connection Shaykh Muhammad mentioned the "deep disappointment" which the French government's Near East policy has aroused in the Arab world. "You are not contributing to peace," he repeated, "by supporting Israel at a time when it is constantly challenging the world with its attacks and annexations. The policy pursued by President Mitterrand's predecessors, starting with General de Gaulle, was not, as is claimed, imbalanced or pro-Arab; it was only fair. Their condemnation of the Camp David agreements was lucid; they had realized that a separate peace in the Near East context could, at best, be only a temporary truce."

The Bahraini foreign minister said he was "heartbroken" by the foreseeable consequences of the crisis of confidence in Franco-Arab relations. "I am very much afraid," he said, "that our relations with Paris might deteriorate slowly but surely, just as they had gradually developed since General de Gaulle's days, reaching their peak last year."

He also expressed the view that the only country to benefit from France's "defection" is the USSR. "Mr Mitterrand's predecessors had succeeded in projecting a favorable image of the West as a whole, including the United States, however surprising that might seem. Today a considerable section of Arab opinion is despairing of France and turning its eyes toward Moscow. It tends to regard the Soviets as its last resort, as saviors, because it fails to see any difference between the policies pursued by Mr Reagan and Mr Mitterrand, even if the latter does take a different tone. The Arabs have matured: They now take more account of specific deeds than of fine words."

Shaykh Muhammad predicted "disasters," a "series of explosions" in the Near East if "the partiality of our Western friends" persisted.

He reiterated as forcefully as the prime minister the desire to reach a "comprehensive, just and definitive" peace with the State of Israel. "In practice the Fahd plan is that of virtually all Arab countries and will probably be officially adopted at the next summit," he asserted. "We ask Europe, and France in particular, to encourage Israel to react positively to our proposals because it takes two for a reconciliation."

All the conversations it is possible to have in Manama give the clear impression that neither the separate peace between Cairo and Jerusalem nor even the presence of an Israeli embassy on the banks of the Nile unduly worries the leaders. It remains to be seen whether the viewpoint of the Gulf "moderates" will prevail in the Arab League.

KUWAIT

ASSEMBLY URGES ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST ZIONISM

LD231106 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Statement issued by the National Assembly at its session held on 23 March 1982]

[Text] The painful events which have recently been aggravated in the occupied West Bank, the Gaza sector and the Golan Heights, and the popular uprising which we are witnessing there as a result of the continuation of attacks by the Zionist enemy and his dangerous escalation of the situation by way of savage repressive measures and oppressive inhumane practices, to which he resorts against the rightful owners in this occupied part of the Arab homeland, which is dear to all the sons of this homeland, are harbingers of the imminent danger which is deeply shaking the Arab conscience.

It has become our duty to confront this with an effective remedy in which condemnation and denunciation are no longer sufficient; in fact, it requires the mobilization of the entire Arab masses so that they will rise as one, with all their force and resources, in a collective move, both at Arab and international levels. The Kuwaiti people, who are part of the Arab nation, appreciates, in total realization of its pan-Arab and historic responsibilities, that the current tribulations are more dangerous than anything that the Arab homeland has ever experienced and serve as a warning, both now and for the future.

To repel the imminent danger to the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan today is, at the same time, to defend the entity of every part of this homeland and its security and safety. There is no other way to achieve this other than by surmounting the disputes spread, nurtured and deepened by the enemy.

The Assembly appeals to Arab governments and people at this grave moment to support the Palestinian fedayeen action by opening their borders to it, by adopting it and by supplying funds and weapons to strengthen its ability to liberate all Palestinian territory; to raise the Palestinian question to the heights through more interested material and moral support and through various means guaranteeing the continuation of its resistance and steadfastness in the face of repression and terrorism; to adopt a united Arab stand on the basis of sound planning to ensure world public support for the Palestinian mujahadin within their occupied homeland and for those who are standing fast in the occupied Golan Heights; and to apply pressures, possessed by the Arab countries, in facing the countries who strengthen Zionism and encourage it to continue its aggression which does not distinguish between one Arab country and another and which equally threatens them all.

The National Assembly appeals to the Arab governments and peoples to resort to armed struggle against the Zionist entity, to reject all initiatives and solutions based on capitulation and not to stop at mere condemnation or sympathy. Let words be joined by action according to a unified, collective and studied policy agreed upon and believed in by all the Arab countries who would protect its faithful implementation with resolution and courage.

May God support those who support Him. We are dutybound to support the believers.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON EVREN'S VISIT

LD221956 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Joint communique on the visit to Kuwait of Turkish head of state Gen Kenan Evren, issued on 22 March]

[Text] At the invitation of his highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, his excellency the president of the Republic of Turkey, General Kenan Evren, and an official delegation paid an official visit to Kuwait from 20-22 March 1982. The noble guest and accompanying delegation were accorded a warm welcome reflecting the strong relations of friendship between Kuwait and Turkey.

Official talks between the Turkish and Kuwaiti sides took place in a fraternal atmosphere. Both sides noted with satisfaction the constant development of relations between the two friendly countries, relations that are based on their Islamic heritage and ties. They underlined their determination to further consolidate these relations in various fields.

When discussing the international situation, the two sides stressed their support for the principles of the UN Charter and they stressed anew their belief that world peace and security cannot be realized except through honoring the basic principles of international relations that are based on respecting sovereignty and independence, on noninterference in the internal affairs of others and on settling disputes by peaceful means.

The two sides expressed their increasing anxiety over the grave situation in the Middle East, resulting from Israel's aggressive and expansionist policies against the Arab peoples and states. They again expressed their conviction that a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in this region cannot be established without the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and without the recognition of the legitimate and established national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to set up an independent state. In this respect, the two sides reasserted their support for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the need for the PLO's participation in all efforts to establish peace in the region. Both sides condemned the recent Israeli measures regarding the occupied Golan Heights. They also condemned the aggressive Israeli action against the security of Lebanon and the innocent inhabitants there. Both sides stressed the importance of maintaining Lebanon's sovereignty, its territorial security and its national unity under its legitimate authority.

The Kuwaiti side expressed its appreciation of the just stance taken by Turkey in support of the Arab causes including the Palestinian cause. Both sides stressed the need to further consolidate solidarity and cooperation among the Muslim states in various fields so as to contribute to the strengthening of the role of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Both sides expressed extreme concern over the continuation of the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran. They expressed the hope that a peaceful solution will be speedily reached in this conflict between the two Muslim states. In this respect the two sides reasserted their support for the efforts being exerted by the Islamic Good Offices Committee.

The two sides also expressed concern over the situation in Afghanistan and they stressed the need to reach a peaceful solution on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and independence of Afghanistan.

The two sides once more stressed that the security and stability of the Gulf region are the responsibility of the Gulf states alone. They also expressed satisfaction at the progress made by the Arabian GCC in all fields, which is consistent with the aims and aspirations of the peoples of the member states of this council.

The two sides stressed their conviction that there exist vast possibilities for increasing economic cooperation between their two countries and they observed with satisfaction the tangible progress made in this respect following the visit to Turkey by His Highness and Amir of Kuwait. In this respect the two sides observed the possibility of cooperation in building a chemical fertilizer complex in Turkey. They also stressed that there are possibilities for cooperation between the two countries in the petrochemical field. The two sides also noted with satisfaction the activities of the Kuwaiti Arab Economic Development Fund in the field of the basic [word indistinct] in Turkey, and that there are possibilities for the fund contributing to other projects in Turkey. The two sides also expressed the desire to promote contacts between Kuwaiti and Turkish establishments in the fields of industry, trade, tourism and contracts. The two sides also noted the developing relations between the two countries in banking and finance, and they decided to further consolidate these activities. In order to promote economic cooperation, the two sides signed a special agreement on economic, industrial and technical cooperation, stipulating, among other things, the setting up of a joint economic commission which will hold regular annual meetings to study the progress made in relations between the two countries in those fields. The two sides also expressed the conviction that promoting their economic relations will contribute to the realization of their peoples' mutual interests.

His Excellency Gen Kenan Evren expressed profound gratitude for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation. He extended an invitation to His Excellency Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah to pay an official visit to Turkey. The invitation has been accepted with pleasure.

SAUDI ARABIA

U.S. URGED TO UPHOLD CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

PM220847 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 16 Mar 82 p 3

[Editorial: "What Does the U.S. State Department Have To Say?]

[Excerpts] Answering two questions put by AL-JAZIRAH in Washington, one of them regarding "the legal status which the United States recognizes in respect of the occupied Arab territories, namely the West Bank and Gaza," the U.S. State Department said: These areas fall under occupation according to international law but are being administered by Israeli military rule, which is expected to withdraw in accordance with the Camp David accords. Such a withdrawal has to take place when agreement is reached on the framework of autonomy for the occupied territories. As for the final status of the West Bank and Gaza, it will finally be decided upon during the negotiations that are expected to take place as early as possible after a period of no less than 3 years after the autonomy system comes into effect and its machinery is set up in the area.

This answer by the U.S. State Department provokes several questions, including the following:

First, are the political and administrative measures and the steps being taken by Israel in the occupied Arab territories, which are aimed at Judaizing the land, obliterating its main characteristics and changing its demographic, social and population structure, not contrary to the rules of international law under the circumstances of this occupation?

Second, do the Camp David accords -- despite their shortcomings which led the Arab countries to reject them as a framework for peace -- provide that Israel, as a party to the accords, can unilaterally, and without the consent of the two other parties, take political and administrative measures in the occupied territories for objectives of its own such as expropriating land in order to build Jewish settlements and changing the military administration into a civilian administration which has the appearance of being a substitute for the autonomy provided for in the accords, or do these accords not provide for any of what Israel is carrying out in the occupied territories or for what it is doing unilaterally and without its partners in the accords, namely Egypt and the United States?

Third, what has the United States, as a fully responsible partner in the Camp David accords, done to prevent Israel from carrying out actions and taking measures that are not provided for in the agreements and are contrary to international law which the United States, as a superpower and a permanent Security Council member, has a special responsibility to protect and ensure strict application of in the conditions to which it applies, such as the conditions of the military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza?

As we hope that the U.S. State Department will answer the three questions, we would like to draw the attention of its officials to the fact that Israel has provided sufficient proof and evidence -- and even categorical evidence -- that, through the administrative and Judaization measures it is taking against the Arab inhabitants and against the nature of the occupied territories, it is paving the way to annexing these territories just as it annexed Jerusalem and more recently the Golan Heights. Israel is also paving the way to making the annexation a fait accompli that would block the way to the implementation of the autonomy plan as provided for in the Camp David accords.

If Egypt as a party to the Camp David accords does not have the power or the leverage to prevent Israel from doing what it is now doing in the occupied Arab territories, hopes are pinned on the United States not only as a full partner in the Camp David commitments but indeed as a superpower with special responsibility for upholding international law and for actions that violate the provisions of this law and seek to achieve gains in the occupied land by military force.

We might understand the U.S. bias in favor of Israel in matters concerning its national security, such as providing it with arms and funds for self-defense, but we do not understand the bias reaching the point of turning a blind eye to hostile actions aimed at changing the characteristics of the land and the population in the West Bank and Gaza and to Israel's preparations for a potentially serious step, namely the annexation of these lands. This is despite the fact that such actions are null and void under the Camp David accords, international law and the law of history that gives the right to these lands to the legitimate owners, the Palestinian Arab people. So what does the U.S. State Department have to say?

AL-MADINAH CASTIGATES LIBYA'S AL-QADHDHAFI

Used By Islam's Enemies

GF221754 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 20 Mar 82 p 1

[Salah 'Azzam dispatch]

[Text] Travelers from Libya to Cairo and Arab countries are talking about the communist and Christian crusader [salibiyah] plots that are being hatched by the enemies of Islam who are using Al-Qadhdhafi, Libya's military ruler, as their instrument in implementing these plots.

Al-Qadhdhafi's latest ideas which he is discussing with his cohorts are three decisions which he intends to adopt at a so-called "people's congress" to be held in the next few days. These ideas are: The total abolition of divorce in Libyan family life; absolute equality between men and women -- including equality in inheritance, which is contrary to Koranic texts. [as published]

AL-MADINAH has heard that Al-Qadhdhafi is under the influence of a group of fanatical communists and Christians who want to wreak vengeance on Libya and Muslims in general because during the As-Sanusi era Libya played a big role in confronting Christian missionary groups in Africa and sought to propagate Islam.

International communism and Christian crusaders have resolved to turn Libya into a wholly secular state and use it as a center for striking at Islamic movements in the Muslim countries and as a springboard for Marxism. As part of this plot the communists have sought to bring a communist Christian university professor close to Al-Qadhdhafi to become Al-Qadhdhafi's adviser, even on Islamic affairs. He is Dr Tharwat Anis al-Asyuti who is now interpreting the Koran in Al-Qadhdhafi's councils, in the people's committees and at Benghazi University where he is currently teaching.

This communist Christian crusader has submitted a memorandum to Al-Qadhdhafi recommending the total abolition of trade and falsely claiming that the Koran calls for this. He is the author of a book called "Economic Religion" that is being taught at the university on Al-Qadhdhafi's orders. The book contains a whole chapter on the abolition of trade and the system of transactions in Islam, emphasizing that Al-Qadhdhafi's "Green Book" is inspired by Islam.

Al-Qadhdhafi abolished wholesale and retail trade in Libya in 1979. He also abolished the Libyan currency and replaced it with green documents which he calls the dinar, and accordingly seized Libyan citizens' funds as well as their property, cars and farms. Among the peculiar actions of this man is that he brought in contracting, insurance and import and export companies and gave them the authority to replace Libyan individuals and companies.

Offer to Mubarak Rejected

GF201847 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 16 Mar 82 p 2

[Editorial: "Al-Qadhdhafi and Mubarak's Slap"]

[Excerpts] There is no doubt that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is currently going through a hard and extremely difficult situation. The political legacy he inherited placed him in the jaws of a sharp pincer whose edges are Israel and the United States and, more recently, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

However, President Mubarak, who was able to say no to the United States and Israel, did not find it difficult to reveal 2 days ago the vile and contemptible bargain proposed to him by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Even though President Mubarak avoided mentioning him by name, the person who made such a proposal is known and had a similar incident with the late Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat.

Al-Qadhdhafi is asking President Mubarak to return to the Arab League and to Arab ranks on the condition that he boycott Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries and become hostile to them.

That is the price Al-Qadhdhafi is demanding from the Egyptian President so that he, Al-Qadhdhafi, will allow him to return to the Arab League. Imagine, Al-Qadhdhafi is bargaining and imposing conditions as though he himself were the Arab League, Arab ranks and Arab solidarity! We can almost imagine Al-Qadhdhafi when he looks at the Arab League as if it were the remains of that old bar run by Mrs Rahel or the remains of the inheritance left to him by the father, Captain Mann, that Italian soldier whose disorderliness on the day of his ill-fated meeting with that same Mrs Rahel brought results from which the whole of mankind is suffering.

We used to believe that the only ones who were worried that Egypt might return to Arab ranks were those who concocted the Camp David accords in order to stifle the fraternal Arab people in Egypt. We never believed that there was a servant helping to concoct that policy called Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The fact is that president Mubarak's revelation was a surprise to us. Our surprise was due to the fact that Al-Qadhdhafi was having secret contacts with President Mubarak, not to ask him to give up the Camp David policy and abrogate the peace treaty with Israel, but in order to promise him that he would be accepted in Arab ranks in return for his severing relations with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries.

Saudi-Egyptian relations or relations between the Arab people in Egypt and various Arab countries are nonnegotiable matters. Al-Qadhdhafi will not be able -- with all the money he has taken from the deprived Libyan people -- to buy these relations or influence them. The return of the fraternal Egyptian people to the arms of the Arab nation is inevitable. The Egyptian people will return to the Arab nation whether Al-Qadhdhafi wishes it or not. This is a matter which is above all other considerations and is too grave to be resolved by a lost dwarf ruler such as the cowardly and abusive colonel. Moreover, the Arab League, the right to join it and Egypt's return to Arab ranks are matters on which Al-Qadhdhafi has no right whatsoever to make any judgment. As we said before and we repeat for the last time, the Arab League is not the property of the colonel which he inherited from that famous Italian Captain Mann, nor is it the remains of that notorious bar that was run by that very well-known Madame Rahel.

We do not know your attitude -- you agent -- now that you have failed and your offer has been rejected. What is your attitude now that all the people around you have left? What is your attitude when they are spitting on you, on your farces, on your vile clownery and dirty behavior? What is your attitude toward your maternal uncles in Tel Aviv now that you have failed to implement the plan they charged you with? What is your feeling -- you dwarf -- as you are now being chased by insults and kicks and as the curses of the Arabs follow you wherever you go? What is your feeling at present -- if you have any feeling or sense -- when you hear and see the curses of the Arab and African leaders, angry curses and denunciations, and when you receive slaps from every side? You are a coward who has yet to commit suicide!

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR 3-DAY VISIT

LD201302 Riyadh SPA in English 1214 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Jidda, 20 Mar (SPA) -- Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos arrived here today on a three-day state visit to Saudi Arabia. President Marcos' visit to the kingdom is in response to an invitation extended by King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-Aziz. President Marcos will hold talks tomorrow in Riyadh with King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Talks With Khalid

LD221122 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0955 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 22 Mar (SPA) -- Saudi-Philippine talks began at 1130 this morning at the conference hospitality palace. The talks are headed by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his excellency the president of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos.

SPA has learned that the talks dealt with many subjects [words indistinct] of mutual interest. Discussion also dealt with the explanations given by the Philippine president concerning internal conditions in the Philippines and the definite intention to implement the Tripoli agreement which is aimed at settling the problems of the Muslims in the south [words indistinct] Philippines complete independence.

His Majesty King Khalid 'Abd al-'Aziz expressed the interest of the Islamic Conference Organization, in his majesty's capacity as the current chairman of the organization, in finding the desired solution to this problem. His majesty expressed the hope that this visit will be [words indistinct] to establish stability and progress. His majesty pointed out that a good Muslim is a good citizen in any country, wherever he is.

The two sides reviewed the current international situation, the Middle East, Afghan and Kampuchean questions and economic cooperation.

Receives Ministers

LD222214 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2106 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh 22 Mar (SPA) -- Ferdinand Marcos, president of the Philippines, received at 2040 tonight His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation. Present at this meeting were Shaykh Hisham Nazir, minister of planning, Abbas Fayiz Ghazzawi, head of both the Asian and the African departments at the Foreign Ministry; and Ambassador Hassan ash-Shawwaf, head of the foreign minister's office.

After the meeting the defense and aviation minister said the Philippine president has stressed that his government will pay due attention to the Philippine Muslims and that it will do its utmost to serve the Muslims in the southern Philippines.

His royal highness said a civil aviation agreement will be signed tomorrow between the kingdom and the Philippines.

Comments on Talks

LD222258 Riyadh SPA in English 1907 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Mar (SPA) -- President Ferdinand Marcos of Philippines said his pleasant and fruitful discussions with the Saudi leaders will further strengthen the close and beneficial ties between Saudi Arabia and Philippines.

Addressing a press conference here tonight, on the outcome of his talks with HM King Khalid, Crown Prince Fahd and Saudi officials, President Marcos said: "We discussed various specific projects and programmes that are aimed directly at enhancing and broadening Philippine's participation in Saudi Arabia's third programme of development in priority areas, mining and industry, education and skills training, food production and agriculture.

He said attention was also given to efforts for enhancing and accelerating the development and welfare of Muslim Filipino communities in which Saudi Arabia has already helped the Philippines.

President Marcos said: "We discussed a number of Philippine programme specifically focussing on welfare of Moslem Filipino communities. The kingdom has expressed its readiness to assist us in such programmes."

He observed the talks paid attention on Saudi and Philippine participation in the cause of reform of international economic order.

President Marcos said he exchanged with King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd and other Saudi officials on various security and political problems. [sentence as received]

Describing his visit as memorable, President Marcos said Saudi Arabia occupies a special position in the internatioal community and with its ever widening contacts with the rest of the world "is playing a key role today as a force for the attainment of understanding and cooperation between the hemispheres."

The Philippines president renewed his country's support for the Saudi peace plan for the Middle East: "Since my meeting with Crown Prince Fahd at the Cancun Summit in Mexico, I have voiced without any reservations my support for the Saudi Arabian peace plan."

Replying to a question on the issue of Moslims in southern Philippines, President Marcos referred to a 1976 agreement between the Moro National Liberation Front in Tripoli [sentence as received]. He said any solution to the problem should respect the sovereignty and unity of the Philippines, since the problem is an internal affair of the country.

He hailed the efforts of the four-man committee, which comprised Libya, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Senegal for attaining this agreement.

He also expressed his governments readiness to listen to advice from friendly states on the issue.

Further Comments on Talks

LD222302 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 22 Mar (SPA) -- Philippine President Marcos has expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks with King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-Aziz and Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He said that the talks were cordial and fruitful to both sides. President Marcos was speaking at a press conference he held this evening in Riyadh.

President Marcos announced that the kingdom will provide the Philippines with its petroleum needs within the framework of the agreement on expanding the scope of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, but not at preferential prices.

He also stated that Prince Fahd had invited him to visit the kingdom during their stay at Cancun.

Asked what effect the Tripoli agreement has had on the conditions of the Muslims in the Philippines, President Marcos said that all provisions in the agreement have been implemented. He pointed to the elections which took place later in which a number of Muslim rebel representatives were elected and said that these are brothers of all the Filipinos. He said some of these Muslim leaders are accompanying him on his present visit to the kingdom, now that they have been convinced of the results of the agreement and the government's reform programs. He declared that new elections will be held to consolidate self-government in the Philippine regions. He added that the experiment which has led to the agreement is good and encouraging.

The Philippine president expressed his appreciation for the proposal made by King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-Aziz which provides for a discussion of the Filipino Muslims question with complete objectivity. He added that such a discussion with complete objectivity. He added that such a discussion will undoubtedly eliminate all the implications which have distorted the picture of the Government in the Philippines for many years.

He said the Muslim Ulema of the Philippines play a good and positive role in calming conditions and restoring life to normalcy so that all can devote themselves to building and development.

He affirmed that the kingdom's welcome of a Philippine president in itself constitutes support for the efforts to bring peace and stability back to his country.

He said he has authorized the Muslim representatives accompanying him to contact their brethren and talk to them about reaching a solution that will put an end to the question in a manner satisfactory to all parties and will be capable of putting things right in the country.

He reiterated the denunciation of the ASEAN countries of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and Kampuchea and their stand against foreign interference in the affairs of other countries. He described the Soviet occupation as a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of an independent state and demanded the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

UAE

PLO'S MAHMUD 'ABBAS MEETS FOREIGN MINISTER

GF211339 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1106 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Mar (WAKH) -- Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of foreign affairs, met here today with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting, Abu Mazin briefed Rashid 'Abdallah on developments in the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the popular uprising in West Bank cities against the enemy's arbitrary policy against Arab citizens and mayors. He also briefed him on developments in the situation in southern Lebanon in light of the massive Israeli buildup on the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Leaves for Damascus

GF220810 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0645 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Mar (WAM) -- Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin), PLO Executive Committee member, left the country early this morning following a visit to the UAE that lasted several days. Abu Mazin left for Damascus to take part in high-level meetings today between the Palestinian leadership and the Syrian Government in order to coordinate the situation between the two sides in Arab and international fields.

During his visit to the UAE Abu Mazin met with a number of UAE officials and discussed recent Arab developments, particularly the overwhelming uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as well as Israeli preparations for an attack against southern Lebanon.

Abu Mazin was seen off at the airport by a number of Foreign Ministry officials as well as the PLO's representative to the UAE, Ribhi 'Awad.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD COMMENTS ON CONSPIRACY

LD201900 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Aden, 20 Mar (JANA) -- President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad of South Yemen last Thursday reaffirmed his country's support for the Great Al Fatah Revolution and he condemned the reactionary and imperialist plots against the Jamahiriyah and Syria.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the opening of a new power station in Hadramawt, President 'Ali Nasir referred to the scheme recently uncovered by South Yemen and for which 12 people involved in carrying it out are presently under trial. He said this is not only an inhuman action but also indicates the bankruptcy of the imperialist and reactionary forces, including the C.I.A., and so-called Arab and Muslim countries.

He added: "South Yemen does not wish to retaliate against this conspiracy in the same irresponsible method but this does not mean we are weak and unable to react."

The reactionary rulers of Saudi Arabia had dispatched a group of mercenaries to carry out sabotage activities against the South Yemeni people.

MINISTER RECEIVES LETTER FROM YAR COUNTERPART

EA221846 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the YSP Central Committee and foreign minister, has received a letter from his brother 'Ali Lutfi Ath-Thawr, the foreign minister of the northern part of the homeland, on coordination between the two ministries to strengthen moves toward the reunification of Yemen.

The brother foreign minister received the message this afternoon in his office when he met brother Muhammad al-'Iryani, head of the Political Department of the Foreign Ministry of the northern party of the homeland, who arrived in Aden this morning.

YAR

SABOTEURS SURRENDER, CONFESS TO AUTHORITIES

JN201550 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] San'a', 20 Mar (INA) -- The competent YAR authorities have revealed that other groups of elements connected with a sabotage plan discovered last week have surrendered to the YAR authorities and made very important confessions. The groups handed over to the authorities equipment and arms intended for carrying out sabotage activities. The groups also revealed information on a conspiratorial scheme aimed at Yemeni unity and YAR security and stability. The authorities said that the saboteurs were trained in special training camps outside the country.

Last week, the YAR Government announced that a foreign country was involved in a plot discovered in the YAR and aimed at carrying out sabotage activities and that arrests were made to this effect. The government said that it would reveal the name of this country and those involved in the plot following the completion of the current investigations.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ INTERVIEWS BUTRUS GHALI

GF211513 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 21 Mar 82 p 3

[Interview granted to AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ's chief editor Ahmad Kamal by Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, in his office at the Foreign Ministry in Cairo -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Do you believe that the late President Anwar as-Sadat's peace initiative has been fruitful? Will Camp David continue after the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai?

[Answer] First, I want to tell you that the opposition against the initiative has never put forth any constructive proposals. Second, the initiative and Camp David have resulted in regaining Sinai and its oilfields. We have a yearly oil income of 3 billion pounds, and our tourism industry is very successful: Tourism revenues amount to 1 billion pounds. Besides, we have won a political victory and an international reputation that we are a people who want peace, not war, just as our people have assiduously worked for war and offered great sacrifices, they have also worked with as much desire, determination and seriousness for peace. In my view, this reputation is invaluable and is far more important than what we have achieved through peace.

[Question] Do you not consider, nevertheless, Egypt's separation from the Arabs, the differences between them, the severance of Egyptian-Arab relations and Egypt's isolation brought upon by the late president?

[Answer] Egypt has never felt isolated. As for differences, Egypt is used to them. Since 1949, 33 differences have arisen between us and Arab countries, including differences between Egypt and Syria and Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, what has occurred among Arab states is greater than what is taking place now. The Yemen war, for example, split the Arabs into two factions. There have been also differences among Iraq, Jo dan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. There have also been other differences which total the number I have mentioned.

How can Egypt feel isolated at a time when it is the most populated Arab country? Egypt constitutes one half of all Arabs. We, in Egypt, believe that what is taking place between the Arabs and Egypt is a mere familial dispute that will soon vanish.

[Question] Do I understand, then, that the current Egyptian policy is temporary?

[Answer] No. Our method is not temporary; we have had and still have an integrated strategy and a final goal. If you look closely at this method, you will notice that it does not differ from the method adopted by the rejection front countries. This has frequently been expressed by the president and many other officials. After achieving the first part of the Camp David agreements in restoring Sinai, we said we would not sign or agree to anything with Israel that is not satisfactory or agreeable to the Palestinians. We call for the return of all occupied Arab territories, the West Bank and Gaza and for a national Palestinian homeland. Where, then, lies the dispute or the difference? The difference between them and us lies in the fact that this can only be achieved through direct negotiations. So, the difference is in the means and not in the goal.

[Question] Do you not believe that the continuation of the threat to use war by continued preparedness greatly benefits negotiations and enhances the Arab stand in any negotiations with Israel?

[Answer] Continued negotiations and a continued desire for peace by the Arabs will convince the world that we want peace and that we want our lands to be restored and the Palestinians to have a homeland. There can be no comparison between war and peace and between negotiations and war, because war never leads to peace. This is a theory we believe in and a means we call for, not only between the Arabs and Israel, but for all parties. This method must be applied to every existing dispute. In my opinion, the current Gulf war between Iraq and Iran will lead to nothing. There must be negotiations.

[Question] Nevertheless, after your bitter experience with Israel on the issue of Palestinian autonomy, you have reached an impasse and have still not gained any ground.

[Answer] We believe that if dialogue continues, we will have results, whether with Israel or with others. We must tackle all differences right from the beginning, one after the other in order to remove the obstacles and break the impasse. We believe that dialogue and negotiations are marks of civilization. In this method and through continued negotiations with Israel, we have been able -- more than at any other time -- to achieve many things. First, we have been able to continuously attract attention to the Middle East issue, so much so that the entire world has begun to know and understand our stand. Second, we have been able to involve the American giant in the issue and we have made it understand that it really is able to achieve results in this issue. Third, we have exposed the Arab regimes that have been trading in the cause for a long time without doing anything for it. You attacked Camp David and before that you attacked the initiative, but you have never proposed an alternative.

[Question] What about Prince Fahd's plan?

[Answer] I respect this plan but the Arab parties have not agreed on it yet. Besides, the problem is not to propose a peace plan; the problem is the means of implementing this plan, applying it and initiating contacts on it. Will these contacts be bilateral such as those between Egypt and Israel, will they be among three or four parties or will they be collective contacts? In this issue, the question is not of principles but of the means and organs through which principles can be implemented. Many solutions have been offered to the Palestinian people, but the mothod of implementing these solutions has never been proposed.

[Question] Are you hopeful of the results you have achieved and have achieved and of the withdrawal?

[Answer] I am optimistic and confident that Israel will withdraw from Sinai as scheduled. I reiterate that so long as there is no alternative it is good for you and us and for the Palestinian people to continue our way until the end. We may and we hope we will achieve something.

On the benefits of the peace between Egypt and Israel. First, on the political level, we have transferred the issue from slogans to reality, and this itself is a great gain. Second, on the same level, 90 percent of Egypt's political attention used to be devoted to the Egyptian-Israeli confrontation, at the expense of the Egyptian people's real problems. It was also at the expense of the suffocating economic issue from which these people, who have waged many wars and who have paid an exorbitant price, are suffering. Third, on the economic level, Egypt restored the Suez Canal. Its revenue last year totaled 1 billion pounds, in addition to what I have mentioned above.

[Question] It is said that there are unannounced contacts between Egyptian Government parties and the Palestinians. What is your comment on this?

[Answer] Yes, there are contacts. I can say that Egyptian contacts with the Palestinians have never stopped and have taken various forms.

[Question] What about the call for the restoration of relations with the Arabs?

[Answer] We say clearly and frankly that we welcome the restoration of relations with our Arab brothers. However, I want to emphasize one point: We will continue autonomy negotiations with Israel. We will continue to have relations with Israel, and we will continue to normalize and expand these relations. We will not renege on our pledges to Israel. At the same time, we warmly welcome the restoration of Egyptian-Arab relations.

[Question] What is your opinion of President Husni Mubarak?

[Answer] His leadership is a continuation of that of the late President Anwar as-Sadat. I am sure he will follow the same line.

SUNA INTERVIEWS MINISTER OF STATE GHALI

JN221602 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (SUNA) -- In an interview with SUNA, Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has said Egypt will not agree that the restoration of its relations with the Arab states should be at the expense of its existing relations with Israel. The Arab states, he pointed out, must know that Egypt will continue its normal relations with Israel after the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in April.

Asked about the common ground on which future relations between Egypt and the Arab states could be based, Dr Ghali said this common ground would be the same as the one on which Egypt's relations with Somalia and the Sultanate of Oman are based.

Dr Ghali expressed hope that those Arab states still attacking Egypt will be able, with time, to understand the truth about the Egyptian initiative. Egypt, he said, does not want to respond to their campaigns but to start a continuous dialogue with the Arab states.

Dr Ghali said Egypt welcomes any diplomatic role for Sudan in settling African disputes or achieving rapprochement between Egypt and the Arab states. He added that the circumstances are opportune for any peace initiative and more mutual understanding. Dr Ghali expressed hope that the complete Israeli withdrawal on 25 May [presumably meaning 25 April] will show the Arab community and the rejectionists that negotiations produce results.

Asked about the possibility of an Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon, Dr Ghali said: I do not believe this will happen. I do not agree that Israel is preparing to occupy southern Lebanon. We hope there will be no Israeli attack on Southern Lebanon. If it occurs, we hope that we will be able to settle the matter peacefully.

Regarding the dangers threatening the Arab Gulf, Dr Ghali said the Gulf area is threatened with instability, because the cold war has moved from Asia and Europe to the Gulf. What is threatening that region now, he said, is the confrontation between the two superpowers and the fact that the Gulf has become an arena for the cold war.

Replying to a question about Egypt's position on the dangers threatening the Arab Gulf, Dr Ghali said that Egypt is still abiding by the Arab collective defense pact. If any Arab state requests Egyptian assistance under the provisions of this pact, Egypt will be ready to give such assistance, he added.

Replying to a question about Al-Qadhdhafi's conspiracies against Sudan, Dr Ghali reiterated his country's position, stressing that any attack on Sudan will be an attack against Egypt and any sedition against Sudan will be sedition against Egypt. Egypt's position is that of absolute support for Sudan, he said. Dr Ghali indicated that there is complete agreement between the two countries on security matters.

Asked about efforts to patch up recent differences in the OAU, Butrus Ghali said Egypt would shortly begin a series of contacts with Africa's wise men and presidents in order to become acquainted with their opinions in this regard. He added that, in light of this, Egypt would coordinate with Sudan in drawing up a plan aimed at creating some sort of rapprochement between the two disputing groups on the issue of the Western Sahara in an attempt to deal with division. He said that it is in the interest of Sudanese and Egyptian diplomacy to work toward safeguarding African unity and settling the serious dispute between the two groups within the OAU. These groups, he said, are the radical group that supports the presence of an occupier in the SDAR and the group that considers this matter illegal.

Ghali said that Sudan and Egypt, which support the second group, believe that this dispute should not be a reason for the disintegration of the OAU and African unity. He stressed that Sudanese and Egyptian diplomacy has managed within a short period of time to achieve several great successes with regard to full coordination between the two countries in international forums. He added that the two countries' foreign ministers have agreed to draw up firm principles for Sudanese-Egyptian integration of diplomatic moves. They have also agreed that the Sudanese and Egyptian ambassadors accredited to one state should hold monthly meetings to prepare a joint report to be dispatched to the two countries' foreign ministries. They have also agreed that the Sudanese ambassador or diplomatic mission will take care of Egyptian interests in any country where there is no Egyptian ambassador or diplomatic mission and vice versa.

Dr Butrus Ghali talked about the progress of the integration process between the two countries and said that seminars to strengthen the two countries' integration will be held during the next few months in order to study the economic, political and geographical aspects and give them a practical dimension.

He indicated that the higher ministerial committee on integration between the two countries will meet soon as arrangements are now underway to hold such a meeting. Asked if integration requires interference in internal affairs, Dr Ghali said that the real integration between Sudan and Egypt will require a continuous interference by the two states, but this interference is in the interest of the two countries and their integration.

Dr Ghali said that the best way to resist polarization in the region is to bolster the nonaligned policy on the political level. Egypt and Sudan can support this policy, in addition to the existing military and strategic cooperation between them to confront the phenomenon of polarization which is aimed against the region.

On a question about President Numayri's call for a summit conference of the Nile basin states, Dr Ghali said that Egypt is in constant contact with the Nile basin states on the convocation of this conference. He added that as part of these efforts a conference was recently held in Addis Ababa for the Egyptian ambassadors in the Nile basin states. Moreover, Egypt held contacts with other states, and the results will be submitted to the Sudanese Foreign Ministry.

On the purpose of opening an Egyptian consulate in Elat and an Israeli one in Alexandria, Dr Ghali said the aim is to encourage international tourism in the Sinai Peninsula, particularly in the area overlooking the Red Sea.

OIL MINISTER: OPEC MEETING 'EXTREMELY POSITIVE'

JN201433 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Vienna, 20 Mar (INA) -- Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, has asserted that the outcome of the OPEC emergency meeting is extremely positive and that everyone faced up to his responsibility and met the challenges facing the organization. He told INA that the latest agreement would strengthen OPEC's role and maintain the pricing structure until the end of the year.

Tayih 'Abd al-Karim explained that the ministers agreed that the highest rate of daily production should be 18 million barrels and that this may be reconsidered at the OPEC's next meeting in Ecuador on 25 May. This rate, the minister added, would safeguard the official price agreed upon in Geneva at the end of October 1981.

IRAN SELLS CRUDE OIL TO FRG, BRAZIL AT LOW PRICES

JN211057 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Mar (INA) -- Arab oil sources have stated that Iran has proposed to European buyers the sale of its oil at low prices.

The Arab sources told the INA correspondent in Kuwait that during the first week of this month, an Iranian delegation concluded an agreement with a West German company to provide 370,000 barrels of crude oil daily at $25 a barrel. The sources added that other Iranian delegations are touring European and Latin American countries to sell Iranian crude oil at low prices in exchange for weapons and hardware.

The Arab sources stated that an Iranian delegation is currently in Brazil to negotiate an agreement with a company under which Iran would provide the company with 300 [as received] barrels a day at $27 a barrel for a period of 3 years.

The sources stated that under these agreements, Iran is committed to transporting oil in its tankers to an area far from the war, and that the transfer of oil is taking place on the (Aushum) Island in the Arabian Gulf.

ENVOY TO GUINEAN PRESIDENT RETURNS HOME

JN211816 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, chairman of the Good Offices Committee on the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, returned to Baghdad this evening.

In a statement to INA, 'Alwan said he had conveyed to the Guinean president a message from President Saddam Husayn containing an Iraqi proposal to form a committee to determine which side began the aggression and war. He added that this initiative was well received by President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who greatly welcomed this new Iraqi initiative.

Hamid 'Alwan indicated that President Saddam Husayn's proposal to form this factfinding committee is a new confirmation of Iraq's desire and care for peace that is based on respect for legitimate rights, establishment of good neighborly relations and noninterference in other states' internal affairs.

RAMADAN HANDED MESSAGE FROM BULGARIA'S BOZHINOV

JN181614 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received a message from his Bulgarian counterpart Todor Bozhinov. The message, delivered by the Bulgarian ambassador to Iraq, deals with bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them in the interest of the two friendly countries and peoples.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND REPORTS FIGHTING WITH IRAN

Communique No 649

JN181640 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) -- During the past 24 hours, the Iraqi Armed Forces killed 28 Iranians and destroyed 4 vehicles, 2 guns, 5 stockpiles of hardware, 8 observation posts and 1 boat. Communique No 649, issued by the Armed Forces General Command, added that the forward Iraqi units pounded the enemy positions and units in Ahvaz and Sumar, inflicting massive losses in life and equipment. The communique put our sacrifices at three martyrs. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With great courage our victorious forces continue their activities in the operational sectors. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded the enemy positions and units in the Ahvaz area, killing 17 and destroying 2 guns and 1 observation post.
2. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Sumar area. Our forces opened fire on it killing seven.
3. Six were killed and one vehicle and two stockpiles of hardware were destroyed in the Shush area.
4. Three were killed and two vehicles, one stockpile of hardware and one observation post were destroyed in the Bostan sector.
5. Three were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
6. Two were killed and one vehicle, one stockpile of hardware and one observation post were destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
7. One stockpile of hardware, five observation posts and one boat were destroyed in the Abadan area.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 38 killed and 4 vehicles, 2 guns, 5 stockpiles of hardware, 8 observation posts and 1 boat destroyed.

8. Our sacrifices: three martyrs in all sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 March 1982

Communique No 650

JN191702 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA) -- A military communique issued today by the Armed Forces General Command said that our air defense forces have shot down an enemy fighter plane in the southern sector of the front. The plane was seen by Iraqi ground forces exploding in the air. The communique said that our brave air force launched successful raids all day today against enemy positions, concentrations and military targets in the southern sector of the front, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy in men and equipment. All our planes returned safely to base. Total enemy losses during the military operations over the past 24 hours, with the exception of the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah [Susangerd] areas, amounted to 48 men killed and 1 fighter plane, 1 personnel carrier, 1 vehicle, 3 stockpiles of hardware and 1 observation post destroyed. The Iraqi forces lost nine martyrs in all sectors and one mortar was damaged. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 650 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With tremendous capability and profound confidence in realizing a decisive and great victory over the forces of evil and aggression, the soldiers of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah are continuing their activities in the operational sectors. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our valiant forces last nig' launched a swift, large-scale offensive against the enemy positions and defenses in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah areas. A fierce battle ensued in which all kinds of weapons were used. Our forces were able to destroy all the enemy's defenses and to force the enemy forces to retreat, leaving behind their positions, their dead soldiers and their arms and equipment. Our forces are still advancing toward their objectives and we will give you details on the enemy losses in later communiques.
2. Our brave air force continued its successful raids all day today against the enemy positions, concentrations and military targets in the southern sector of the front inflicting heavy losses on the enemy in men and equipment. All our planes returned safely to base.
3. Our forward units pounded with various weapons the enemy positions and concentrations in front of our units in the Bostan area, killing 24 and destroying 1 personnel carrier and 3 stockpiles of hardware.
4. An enemy concentration was seen in the Mimak area in front of our positions at Sayf Sa'd. Our forces pounded the enemy force, killing eight and destroying one vehicle.
5. Seven were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Abadan area.
6. Five were killed in the Mehran area.
7. Four were killed in the Dezful area.
8. This morning, our air defense forces shot down an enemy fighter plane in the southern sector of the front. The plane was seen by our forces exploding in the air.

Thus, total known enemy losses amounted to 48 men and 1 fighter plane, 1 personnel carrier, 1 vehicle, 3 stockpiles of hardward and 1 observation post destroyed.

9. Our sacrifices:
   A. In personnel: nine martyrs in all sectors.
   B. In equipment: one mortar damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 Mar 1982

Communique No 651

JN201756 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Mar (INA) -- The Iraqi offensive in the southern sector of the front has escalated to include the Shush and Dezful areas in addition to Ahvaz and Khafajiyah [Susangerd] areas where the offensive has been going on since yesterday. The Armed Forces General Command has announced that the Iranian enemy positions in the Shush and Dezful regions have fallen into the hands of the Iraqi forces and that the Iraqi forces continue to advance toward their objectives.

In a military communique issued this evening, the Armed Forces General Command said that the Iraqi forces crushed the desparate Iranian attacks following the fall of the Iranian positions in the Shush and Dezful regions. The Iraqi offensive in the Shush and Dezful regions began at dawn today, Saturday, and was aimed at the enemy positions and concentrations in the (Sisban), (Shaykh Sahar) and (Ar-Raqabiyah) areas, where fierce battles ensued in which all kinds of weapons were used. A great number of the enemy were killed or wounded and many or them were captured. A large amount of enemy equipment and hardware was also destroyed.

The military communique said Iraqi forces continue to attack the enemy's positions and concentrations in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah regions, namely in the areas of (Kuha), (Farsiyah), (Sa'dun at-Tifk), (Sayyid Sharif) and (Al-Qasiriyah), advancing toward their assigned objectives. The communique added that the enemy sustained grave losses in life and equipment during the attack.

The communique said that Iraqi fighter planes today carried out 35 raids against enemy positions, concentrations and military targets in the Shush, Dezful, Khafajiyah and Ahvaz regions. It added that the raids inflicted grave losses on the enemy's personnel, tanks and installations. Flames were seen at the explosion sites. The Iraqi planes returned safely to base. The communique added that Iraqi fighter planes shot down two enemy warplanes in a dogfight over the Shush area. The two enemy planes were seen exploding in the air.

The communique indicated that the Iraqi air defenses yesterday shot down two Iranian drones over the Shush area. It said the enemy's losses and the Iraqi sacrifices will be announced in subsequent communiques. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 651 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

"Indeed they had plotted sedition before and upset matters for thee, until the truth arrived, and the decree of God became manifest, much to their disgust." [Koranic verse]

For the sake of sovereignty and dignity and preserving the ideals of the great grandfathers, the forces of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah, who believe in God and in the inevitability of the tremendous victories which they are consolidating by means of sublime principles and values, continue to defend the right irrespective of sacrifices until the rancorous enemy stops its blatant aggression and recognizes our rights in land and waters.

The following is the outcome of the activities last night and today:

1.. In the early hours of today, 20 March 1982, our valiant forces launched a large-scale attack in the Shush and Dezful regions aiming at the enemy positions and concentrating in the (Sisban), (Shaykh Sahar) and (Ar-Raqabiyah) areas. Our units clashed with the enemy using all types of weapons. A fiery battle ensued as a result of which a large number of enemy personnel were killed and wounded and many others were captured. A large amount of enemy equipment and hardware was also destroyed. Following the fall of its positions into the hands of our hero forces, the enemy launched desperate offenses to stop the advance of our victorious units. All of the enemy offensives have failed. Our units continue to advance toward their set objectives and we will announce the enemy's losses and our sacrifices in subsequent communiques.

2. Our units continue to attack the enemy positions and concentrations in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah regions, in the areas of (Kuha), (Farsiyah), (Sa'dun at-Tifk), (Sayyid Sharif) and (Al-Qasiriyah), advancing toward their assigned objectives. The enemy sustained grave losses in life and equipment. We will give details on enemy losses and our sacrifices in subsequent communiques.

3. Our daring air force continued all day today their concentrated and effective raids against enemy units, positions, concentrations and military targets in the Shush, Dezful, Khafajiyah and Ahvaz areas in the southern sector of the front, inflicting very heavy losses on the enemy in men, tanks and hardware. Flames were seen raging at the explosion sites. Our planes carried our 35 sorties and all of them returned safely to base.

4. At 1209 today, in a dogfight over the Shush area in the southern sector of the front, our planes were able to shoot down two enemy planes which were seen exploding in the air.

5. Our air defense forces yesterday shot down two pilotless enemy reconnaisance planes in the Shush area in the southern sector of the front.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 March 1982

Communique No 652

JN211750 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Communique No 652 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 21 March 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In defense of great Iraq and the Arab nation's honor, the proud Iraqis, supported by the devout Arabs, are waging a just war against the criminal Khomeyni clique which is persisting in war and aggression and which is unveiling stands of grudge, hatred and insistence of harming Iraq and the Arab nation. Every day, our valiant heroes score new victories along the path of justice. The results of the activities carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. For the 2d day and with high capability, our heroic units continued their advance in the Shush and Dezful area in order to accomplish their set objectives, concentrating their offensive against the enemy positions and concentrations despite the enemy's repeated desperate attempts to launch counterattacks last night and today. All enemy attempts were doomed to failure and the enemy sustained further losses. The known losses so far counted by the competent authorities at the time of this communique amounted to 706 killed, large numbers of wounded and captured and 15 tanks, 3 armored personnel carriers, 17 vehicles, 12 guns, 6 stockpiles of hardware, 2 rocket launchers, 1 helicopter and 1 excavator destroyed.
2. For the 3d day our capable units continued to strike the enemy positions and concentrations in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah [susangerd] areas, inflicting losses. The known losses so far counted by the competent authorities at the time of this communique amounted to 237 killed, a large number of wounded and 1 tank and 2 guns destroyed.
3. Our valiant air force continued its effective and concentrated raids against the enemy's military positions, concentrations and targets in the northern and southern sectors of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits. Explosions and fires were heard and seen at these targets before all our aircraft returned safely to base.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amounted to 943 killed, large numbers of wounded and captured and 16 tanks, 3 armored personnel carriers, 17 vehicles, 14 guns, 6 stockpiles of hardware, 2 rocket launchers, 1 excavator and 1 helicopter destroyed.

4. Our sacrifices:

A. In personnel: 141 martyrs on 20 and 21 March 1982.
B. In equipment: 21 tanks, 11 personnel carriers, 8 vehicles and 3 mortars damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 March 1982

Communique No 653

JN221743 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Communique No 653 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 22 March 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great and glory to proud Iraq and the rising Arab nation. God is great and victory, based on rights and justice, is ours. God is great and defeat and loss are the lot of the racist Persians, enemies of God and humanity, and those spiteful colonialists, Zionists and Arabs who have no conscience. With strength derived from God, with absolute faith in our constant victory and with trust in the zeal of the men who are defending the people's honor and dignity and the beloved homeland's soil, our brave armed forces continue to hit hard the forces of the wicked Khomeyni clique until this clique comes to know itself.

The results of the activities carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today were as follows:

I. The Dezful and Shush Sectors:

A. The enemy launched a large-scale attack against our units in the Dezful and Shush sectors at dawn today. Our units confronted the enemy and a fierce battle, which was still continuing at the time of this communique, broke out. The enemy sustained large numbers of dead and wounded, many others taken captive and various equipment destroyed. Large quantities of intact equipment and weapons were seized. We will give the details of the enemy losses in our subsequent communiques.

B. Our aircraft continued all day today to intensively raid the enemy's positions, units and military targets in the Dezful and Shush sectors in the southern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting on the enemy remnants, armor and equipment further losses. Our ground forces could hear explosions and see fire at these targets as enemy troops were retreating in a state of terror and confusion. The number of today's combat missions amounted to 159. All our aircraft returned safely to base.

C. Our helicopters attacked enemy tanks, vehicles and personnel in the Dezful and Shush sectors in the southern sector of the battlefield all day long, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting massive losses. Today's combat mission totalled 24. All our aircraft returned safely to base.

D. At 1226 [0926 GMT] today, an enemy fighter plane was shot down by our antiaircraft defenses in the Shush area in the southern sector of the battlefield. It was seen going down in enemy territory.

II. The activities of our units in the other sectors:

A. Known enemy losses:

1. Our valiant units clashed with an enemy force opposite our positions in the Bostan sector, killing 77 and destroying 1 observation post.
2. Our forward units pounded the enemy positions and units in the Havaz area, killing 25 and destroying 1 vehicle, 1 rocket launcher, 1 excavator and 1 observation post.
3. Two were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Mehran area.
4. Two were killed in the Khafajiyah [Susgangerd] area.
5. One was killed and one stockpile of hardware and one observation post were destroyed in the Abadan area.
6. One tank was destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
7. One vehicle carrying personnel was destroyed and its occupants were killed in the Sumar area.

Thus, the total known enemy losses, except in the Dezful and Shush sectors, amounted to 107 killed, 1 tank, 1 rocket launcher, 2 vehicles -- 1 of which was carrying personnel -- 1 excavator, 1 stockpile of hardware and 4 observation posts.

B. Our sacrifices:

1. In personnel: 10 martyrs.
2. In equipment: One mortar damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 March 1982

AD-DA'WAH CONGRATULATES KHOMEYNI ON VICTORIES

GF221847 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 82

["Text" of congratulatory cable sent by the Iraqi Islamic Ad-Da'wah Party to Ayatollah Khomeyni on the occasion of latest military victories on the warfronts -- read by announcer]

[Text] His eminence the representative of the imam, the leader Imam Khomeyni:

"If you support God, God will support you." [Koranic verse]

We congratulate you and our struggling Islamic nation on the bright victories which the soldiers of Islam achieved against the mercenaries and the misled of the aggressor Saddamist army. We pledge to God, to you the imam of this nation and to our Muslim people in Iraq and everywhere that we are soldiers of Islam and are guided by your victorious leadership and command of Velayet el-Faqih, which is represented in you, in order to liberate our Iraq from filth of infidelity and delusion. In order to reach this goal, we will sacrifice our lives until victory is achieved.

"Victory comes from God alone." [Koranic verse] We hope God will keep you and protect you and make Islam victorious throughout the world. "If you support God, God will support you. God is strong and mighty." [Koranic verse] Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Iraqi Islamic Ad-Da'wah Party

WITNESSES REPORT HARASSMENT OF WEST BANK MAYORS

JN221427 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Some eyewitnesses who crossed the Damiya Bridge between Jordan and the West Bank have said that the West Bank mayors are being exposed to considerable harassment and that the Israeli authorities have adopted measures to prevent them from meeting or traveling from one place to another. The Israeli authorities have also cut off all their telephone communication.

PLO DELEGATION ARRIVES IN AMMAN FOR TALKS

JN221751 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1510 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee for occupied territories affairs arrived in Amman today to participate in tomorrow's committee meeting. The delegation includes Fatah Central Committee members Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Hani al-Hasan and PLO Executive Committee members 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad and Hamid Abu Sittah.

A preliminary meeting will be held in Amman this evening. According to a related source it will deal with the uprising in the occupied territories.

KING HUSAYN ADDRESSES CABINET MEETING 21 MAR

JN211722 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn presided over the cabinet meeting held at the Prime Ministry at noon today. It was devoted to discussing the Arab situation in general and the situation in the West Bank in particular. His majesty said: We are following with appreciation and admiration the stand our kinfolk in the West Bank have taken against the Israeli occupation. This spirit of courageous steadfastness against aggression has been displayed at a time when our people are also commemorating the Al-Karamah battle which was a most splendid expression of this true spirit.

His majesty the king asserted that with determination, firmness and resolution, we will be able to defeat the aggressor. He also affirmed that we will continue to face challenges here and in the eastern gateway of the Arab homeland in support of the many martyrs who fell in the long pan-Arab march and in fulfillment of our duty to the coming generations so they can live as free Arabs on their Arab land.

His majesty said that the time will come when our nation will experience the real change; when it will regain its rights in Jerusalem, in the occupied territories and everywhere in Arab land.

His majesty pointed out that the current phase through which our nation is passing calls for vigilance and alertness. He said the Arabs must protect and support one another against all dangers. He also warned against the internationalization of the conflict in the region, which aims at wiping out Arabs and Arab identity.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran thanked His Majesty King Husayn for presiding over the meeting at this particular time when Jordan is following the situation in the West Bank and our kinfolk's steadfastness against the hostile practices of the occupation authorities.

The prime minister said that His Majesty King Husayn's stand in support of fraternal Iraq against the Iranian regime's aggression will remain a source of strength and pride. This pan-Arab call, he said, has received the response of the Jordanian people and the fraternal Arab people.

The Cabinet meeting under His Majesty King Husayn reviewed the situation in the West Bank, including the dimensions of the hostile plans of Israel, which is using the policy of collective punishment against our kinfolk and brothers in the West Bank and the occupied Arab territories. The session was attended by Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

MINISTER FOR WEST BANK INTERVIEWED ON UNREST

JN191933 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Interview with Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister for occupied land affairs, within program "It Happened Tomorrow" by an unidentified Monte Carlo Radio correspondent -- date and place not give -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Jordan has taken an initiative with regard to the West Bank and has said that anyone who does not resign from the village leagues will be charged with high treason. Why has Jordan, taken this seemingly hardline attitude?

[Answer] In fact, this is not an initiative; it was a government decision of the village leagues. Jordan has found out that the so-called Civil Administration has been active recently in strengthening the village leagues and in pressuring citizens to join these leagues. Jordan is aware of the threats that will arise from these leagues, which the Jordanian Government has warned against on previous occasions. Jordan, therefore, has found that the time is suitable to explain the issue to those citizens who have joined the leagues so they might withdraw from them after having learned the truth. Thus, these threats may be avoided and the occupation authorities may fail in realizing their scheme, which is based on strengthening these leagues and making them a background for the establishment of the civil administration and hence the autonomy.

[Question] Do you think Israel has begun to pave the way for the final annexation of the West Bank?

[Answer] It has begun to effect a virtual annexation [ad-damm al-waqi'i] of the West Bank. That is how we evaluate the situation.

[Question] Is there any coordination between you and the PLO concerning this issue?

[Answer] I think that resisting the schemes of the occupation authorities does not always necessitate coordination. There was no direct coordination on this issue, but coordination is continuing to support steadfastness in the occupied territories between the PLO and the Jordanian Government, particularly through the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee, which has discussed the issue of the village leagues in the past.

[Question] It seems that the emerging Jordanian role is overwhelming the Syrian role. Do you think that you have robbed Syria of its role with regard to the Palestinian issue?

[Answer] I do not think so, because the question of stealing roles does not arise. It is Jordan's duty and responsibility regardless of any other stand.

[Question] In your view, what will happen if Israel resorts to closing the bridges between the West Bank and Jordan? Will this harm the West Bank inhabitants?

[Answer] Jordan's policy from the beginning has been to keep the bridges between the two banks open, because this has been an important point in strengthening connections between the people in the occupied territories and the east bank and hence the Arab world. Therefore, the bridges are important for supporting the steadfastness of the people on their soil.

[Question] At the Rabat summit, Jordan recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Recently, the Jordanian role concerning all West Bank events has openly emerged in a remarkable manner. For instance, yesterday, when the Al-Birah Municipal Council was dissolved the first reaction came from the Jordanian Foreign Ministry. Don't you think there is a kind of contradiction between the current Jordanian action and the recognition of the representative status of the PLO?

[Answer] As a matter of fact, regardless of the Rabat summit resolution, we believe that the Jordanian role has not and will not cease. The Jordanian role is tied in with the Palestinian cause and people. This role will continue from the national and pan-Arab viewpoints. In view of our strong relations and proximity to the West Bank, and due to our awareness of the suffering of the people in the West Bank and our sentiments toward them, it is not strange that Jordan's reaction should be immediate and spontaneous, particularly in view of its important role in this issue. I do not think this role contradicts the PLO representation as stipulated in Rabat. It also does not contradict the PLO's role in resisting the occupation and in struggling to restore Palestinian rights.

AMMAN PAPERS COMMENT ON ISRAELI 'TERRORISM'

JN200743 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "They Resist Terrorism With Strike Action," AR-RA'Y says: The terrorism now going on against Palestinian institutions, newspapers and worshippers in the West Bank shows the true picture of the professed Israeli democracy. This picture should be clear to those misled Americans who think that Israel is the only democratic entity in the region.

It is strange, indeed, that the Milson administration has used Jordanian law to disband the Al-Birah Municipal Council, forgetting that this law does not legalize the practices of the occupation authorities. This law does not forcibly subjugate the municipal councils but preserves their prestige and backs them in the exercise of their responsibilities.

AR-RA'Y adds: Undoubtedly, our steadfast kinfolk are fully aware of this. Thus they took the initiative in declaring a general strike as a means of resisting the Israeli aggression against the Al-Birah Municipal Council, an aggression which threatens other municipal councils in an attempt to enforce the Civilian Administration. This strike action, which has covered the entire West Bank and which is particularly evident in Arab Jerusalem, is a new proof of the strong Palestinian solidarity there, adherence to national Palestinian institutions and categorical rejection of the containment conspiracy, which the occupation authorities are carrying out through the Civilian Administration and the pro-Israel village leagues.

AR-RA'Y concludes by saying: If the Israeli occupation authorities have committed aggression against the Al-Birah Municipal Council in order to find out what the reaction will be or to pave the way for other hostile acts and practices, it is clear that those authorities have found their answer in the general strike. It is now clear to those authorities that our defenseless kinfolk in the occupied West Bank will continue to resist by all the means in their power to preserve their national identity, rights and institutions.

Under the headline "An Outcry From the Wounded Homeland," AD-DUSTUR says: The outcry made yesterday by Al-Birah Mayor Ibrahim at-Tawil causes our hearts to bleed and injures Arab pride, because it shows the lack of strong Arab support for our West Bank kinfolk in their severe tribulation, which could have a direct effect on their future and the fate of the remainder of their land.

The paper wonders: Is it not strange that, with the exception of Jordan and the PLO, the Arab nation -- with all its leaders and governments -- is silent over the measures taken against the citizens of the West Bank and Gaza, measures which are aimed at liquidating their existence, uprooting them from their land and humiliating them through acts of terrorism, arrests and firing on students, worshippers and demonstrators who are expressing their rejection of occupation and resisting enemy soldiers bravely and courageously? Jordan has quickly denounced and rejected the Israeli enemy's decision to disband the Al-Birah Municipal Council. It has also circulated a note of protest among UN members. This honorable stand is harmonious with our pan-Arab obligation of defending the Palestinian cause, territory and rights. It is also harmonious with Jordan's belief in the common objective, destiny and pan-Arab confrontation of any danger threatening any Arab country. The PLO also stood firmly against the Israeli decision.

AD-DUSTUR concludes by saying: Like Ibrahim at-Tawil, we ask: Where is Arab chivalry? Where are the Arab states and leaders who often brag that they will fight to liberate Palestine and defend the rights of the Palestinians? We are not asking them to fight because we know that they are preoccupied with their disputes and differences. All we are asking them to do is to take some action to remove the injustice done to the Palestinians to enable them to live a respectable life and confront the occupation.

JORDAN TIMES WARNS U.S. OF MIDEAST 'REBOUND'

JN210958 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Mar 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Warnings Everywhere"]

[Text] We are deeply shocked and astounded by the response of the United States State Department to the Israeli dissolution of the elected town council of Al-Birah in the occupied West Bank and its replacement by an appointed group of Israeli military and civilian personnel. The State Department not only reflected American weakness by saying simply the Israeli move was "unfortunate"; it also added insult to injury by suggesting that the best way to alleviate the current problems is to go ahead with the proposed elections for a "self-governing authority" under the aegis of the Camp David accords, which have been resoundingly rejected by the Arab world.

Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said a few days ago that the Al-Birah action was taken in order to "assure services" in the area. For those who care to remember history, we would like to point out the parallel between this argument and the arguments of the Nazi and fascist leaders of Europe 50 years ago, who liked to stress that they made the trains run on time. The difference today is that while the Nazis and fascists were almost self-reliant, the Israelis are living only by the bountiful generosity of the people and Government of the United States. The perpetuation of this kind of hollow American response to continuing Israeli acts of provocation and strangulation in the occupied territories should cause Americans everywhere to study the words of the U.S. State Department spokesman when he commented on the Al-Birah situation two days ago, saying that: "It is always unfortunate when elected officials are no longer able to serve their constituents." He was talking about the town council of Al-Birah. We wonder whether the same words do not also apply to the formulation of foreign policy in the Middle East by the Government of the United States of America?

The drift of American policy in this region is creating pent-up tension, frustration, anger and even hate that will one day rebound against American interests in a manner that will make the events in Iran seem inconsequential in retrospect. That, too, would be unfortunate. But present trends make it virtually inevitable. The difference is that while the Americans had no warnings in Iran, in the Arab world they have had plenty.

AR-RA'Y URGES BIG POWER ACTION, ARAB UNITY

JN230830 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Mar 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Greetings to Our Steadfast Kinfolk," AR-RA'Y says: With the continued series of ugly Zionist crimes in the occupied Arab territories and the continued heroic steadfastness of our defenseless kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the old and new question is again posed as to the true stand of the big powers on these bloody events. These countries have built their influence and reputation by raising slogans of freedom, democracy and defending human rights.

We wonder why the big powers ignore what is happening in our occupied territory though they are fully aware that our people there are being exposed to terrorism, torture and oppression unprecedented in the history of mankind.

The paper adds: We wonder why events in other parts of the world have worried and continued to worry the big powers. These events make them compete in condemning the aggressors. They describe them with the harshest names and call for conferences and urgent meetings to impose different forms of siege against them, although the nature and ferocity of these events do not match the organized war of annihilation the Israeli occupation authorities are waging against the Arab Palestinian people.

As we pose these questions we realize that the world would not have adopted this stand toward that Arab nation and would not have been able to deal with its crucial issues with such blatant political duplicity had this nation been able to mobilize its potentials, unify its ranks and build its intrinsic power, in order to shape events rather than watching them from the position of the disabled without power or ability.

The paper concludes: Finally, while we pose these questions, we know that the person whose rights are being defended by the big powers is the person who knows how to defend these rights. As long as we do not possess the means of defending ourselves, the most the big powers can do for us is to express false concern and regret. Greetings to our steadfast people who adhere to the soil of their homeland and who every day give us new hope for a bright future and inevitable victory.

JUNBLATT REJECTS AL-JUMAYYIL SOLE SPOKESMAN ROLE

NC211524 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] In an interview to be published in tomorrow's edition of the weekly MONDAY MORNING, Walid Junblatt says that he is ready to meet with the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Front. However, Junblatt states: Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil wants to be the sole representative of the Christians -- and we reject this.

In this interview, Junblatt says: The United States is capable of exerting pressure to foil the schemes aimed at partitioning Lebanon. He also warns that any affiliation with Israel will be faced with an Arab or with an international pact.

SANA NOTES AL-JUMAYYIL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

JN230923 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Mar (SANA) -- The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today cites Phalangist sources as saying that Bashir al-Jumayyil [Lebanese Phalangist leader] was the target of an assassination attempt a few days ago on the Juniyah Highway. The sources added that Bashir al-Jumayyil, prompted by information that plans are being drawn up to assassinate him, has increased the number of his bodyguards.

BUTRUS RECEIVES ENVOYS TO DISCUSS UN RESOLUTION

NC221327 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Within the context of ensuring the requisites for implementation of the UN Security Council resolution in the south, officials today continued to hold contacts and exert efforts with various influential forces.

The Arab miniauthority will meet again today, as scheduled, to continue with the discussion on the projected strategy. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus this morning met with the ambassador of the Soviet Union, Mr Aleksander Soldatov.

After the meeting, which lasted about an hour, the Soviet ambassador said: The discussion has touched on the regional and Lebanese situations. Furthermore, I have conveyed to Minister Butrus the proposals of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, President Leonid Brezhnev, on international issues and on disarmament.

Asked his opinion about the attacks to which some diplomatic missions have been exposed, he said: We are living with this subject all the time.

Minister Butrus later received the ambassador of Bulgaria. He then received the ambassador of Tunis, who came to say farewell upon his transfer from Beirut to another post.

DELEGATION LEAVES BEIRUT FOR MOSCOW 22 MAR

NC221759 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] A parliamentary and political delegation left Beirut for Moscow this afternoon for a visit that will last some 10 days. The visit is in response to an invitation from the Lebanese-Soviet [Friendship] Association.

The delegation consists of former Prime Minister Amin al-Hafiz, chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee; Minister of Tourism Marwan Hamadah; and deputies Albert Mansur, Michel Ma'luli, Fu'ad at-Tahini, Mikhayil ad-Dahir, Dr Hashim al-Husayni and Karim Maruwwi.

At the Beirut airport, former Prime Minister al-Hafiz said:

[Begin recording] We thank the Soviet-Lebanese Friendship Association for having extended this invitation to us -- an invitation which has given us the opportunity to travel to the Soviet Union and to meet with senior Soviet officials.

Given the present critical circumstances through which Lebanon and the Lebanese people, as well as the whole Arab area, are passing, we have been afforded a good opportunity to go to the Soviet Union and to exchange viewpoints and to consult with Soviet officials.

The Soviet Union is known as friend of peoples who are considered weak and for having stood on our side and on the side of our Lebanese and Arab causes for a long time.

On this occasion, we say that we are advocating the Lebanese cause epitomized in the need for the restoration of Lebanon's unity and stability and for the return of southern Lebanon to the motherland. We also advocate the Palestinian Arab cause. We will go to Moscow and we will prove time and again that the Lebanese interest and the Palestinian interest are identical to each other and are proceeding together on the same path. We will also prove that our joint struggle against the Zionist danger and against the common enemy should prompt us to continue to pursue our course and to cooperate with our friends, headed by the Soviet Union, to ward off the dangers posed to us. These are all the subjects which we intend to put forward for discussion during our visit to the Soviet Union. [end recording]

PALESTINIANS, UNIFIL TEAM DISCUSS CEASE-FIRE

JN192007 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Beirut -- Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief and Fatah Central Committee member, this afternoon met with UNIFIL Commander General Callaghan. Attending the meeting for the Palestinian side were Col Fakhri Shaqqurah, the Palestine Army coordinator; Col 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Majaydah, director of the Palestinian Revolution Mobilization Department; Lt Col Abu Humayd, commander of the Palestinian armed struggle; and Mahmud al-Labadi, officer in charge of foreign media. For UNIFIL the meeting was attended by General (Worley), Lieutenant Colonel (Mayor) and assistant (Cleveners).

During the meeting Brother Abu Jihad presented the UNIFIL commander with a review of continued cease-fire violations by Israeli forces as represented in continuous Israeli naval patrols, the opening of heavy and medium machinegun fire, artillery bombardment, the blowing up of houses, the kidnapping of innocent citizens, the digging of trenches and the building of fortifications and new military positions.

Abu Jihad also gave a detailed review of the nature of the situation in the occupied territories and our Palestinian people's suffering from Zionist repressive measures in an attempt to peddle the plot of autonomy and civil administration.

IRAQI DIPLOMAT ASSASSINATED IN BEIRUT STREET

NC22[illegible]0 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] At around 1500 today, the Iraqi Embassy's third secretary, 'Ali Hazim Sultan, was assassinated on the Al-Hazimiyah-Al-Jamhur Road. The Iraqi diplomatic was attacked while he was traveling in his car to the embassy premises in Al-Hazimiyah. He was killed instantly.

A security force immediately went to investigate the incident.

VOL REPORTS JORDANIANS, IRAQIS KIDNAPPED

NC191543 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] We have learned that in the past few days the security departments registered the kidnappings of 65 Jordanian and Iraqi citizens at the (Cocodi) checkpoints, which are manned by the Syrian Deterrent Forces. We have also received reports that most of the 40 Jordanians and 25 Iraqis are businessmen who have transactions with Lebanese businessmen. We have also learned that the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Lebanon has conveyed to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry his government's denunciation and protest of these actions.

AS-SAFIR REPORTS FIRE IN BAGHDAD CONSULATE

JN190932 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Beirut, 19 Mar (SANA) -- The Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR reports today that the Lebanese consular office in Baghdad was set on fire. The Lebanese ambassador in Baghdad, the paper adds, has acquainted his government with the details.

ISRAELI GUNBOATS RESUME LEBANESE COAST PATROLS

NC220723 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] In the south, Israeli gunboats have resumed their patrols along the coast inside Lebanese territorial waters extending from An-Naqurah to Sidon. An Israeli gunboat was sighted yesterday in the district of Tyre near the coast opposite Al-Mansuri. Al-Mansuri is within the UNIFIL operations area.

INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE DEPLOYED IN TRIPOLI

NC220655 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Excerpts] A security force consisting of 300 policemen assumed its security duties in the city of Tripoli this morning amidst a welcome by the citizens. The force, which moved in at 0400 today, is equipped to reinforce the Internal Security Forces in the city.

The measures that will be adopted to establish security include confiscating unlicensed weapons and taking their owners to court; stopping any firing into the air, confiscating the weapons and detaining the culprits; and curbing all construction and traffic violations and referring the offenders to the courts.

SECURITY TO BE REINFORCED IN SIDON, TRIPOLI

NC210747 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Internal Security Forces will be reinforced in the streets of the city of Sidon today in accordance with a step that has been unanimously supported by the city's inhabitants. A similar step will be taken in Tripoli tomorrow by the deployment of Internal Security Forces in the streets of the capital of the north.

This week, the legal framework for the establishment of the security forces that are to protect the embassies and diplomatic missions will be worked out, in accordance with the decision that was adopted at the meeting held yesterday under the chairmanship of President Ilyas Sarkis. The plan will be ready to present to the cabinet on Wednesday.

The force to protect the embassies will consist of internal security and public security forces and other forces that will be recruited soon.

According to reports from Tripoli, everything is ready for the deployment of the security forces in the city's quarters in order to maintain security there. Successive meetings have been held in the city to implement the decision issued by the joint coordination committee, which embraces representatives of the city's political, economic and social bodies, providing for the elimination of the armed manifestations in the city.

After a meeting of the joint coordination committee at his residence last night, [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami said the decision on the removal of the armed manifestations will be implemented on 22 March.

AMAL MOVEMENT, PALESTINIANS CLASH IN BEIRUT

NC220852 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] An explosion occurred in the Az-Zaytunah area in western Beirut shortly before midnight yesterday causing material damage only. This was followed by armed demonstrations by the disputant leftist organizations and parties.

In [word indistinct] in the southern suburb, armed men opened fire this morning from a Peugeot 504 at an official of the Amal movement, but missed him. However, Amal members as well as members of the Palestine Liberation Army, which is responsible for the shooting, were alerted.

A state of anxiety continues to prevail in villages in the south in the aftermath of the clashes which have taken place between the Amal movement and Palestinians and leftists in Kawthariyat as-Siyad township in the district of Sidon. These clashes have led to the killing of three Amal members.

In the meantime, there has been armed manifestations and heavy firing from various weapons, which lasted until this morning, in the villages of Jba', 'Ayn Abu Siwar, Jarju' and Qana. We point out here that the Amal movement has rejected all the attempts which were made to contain the incident despite the offers made by the Palestinian organizations.

TIRES BURNED, STORES CLOSED IN WESTERN BEIRUT

NC201534 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] This morning, the appearance of armed persons was noted on the Beirut-Ad-Damur-Sidon Road. Their appearance was followed by the burning of old tires in support of the West Bank strikes. On the occasion of Al-Ard [the land] day, about 75 percent of stores closed in western Beirut.

DAMASCUS RADIO ON AL-ASAD, 'ARAFAT MEETING

JN221658 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] At 1130 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Muhammad Nimr Salih, Fatah Central Committee member; and Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member.

The president and the Palestinian leaders made a general review of the situation in the Arab region, especially in the occupied Arab territories, and the means of supporting our people in the Golan, the West Bank and Gaza. These people are firmly and courageously resisting the Zionist enemy forces and their repressive measures, thereby affirming their adherence to their Arab national affiliation. The conferees stressed the need to consolidate the cohesion between Syria and the Palestinian revolution. They also discussed the question of convening a summit conference of the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

OPPOSITION GROUPS DRAFT CHARTER IN PARIS

NC221957 Paris AFP in English 1912 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Paris, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Several Syrian opposition movements have joined forces to draft a "charter of national alliance for the liberation of Syria" which aims to "overthrow" the current regime of President Hafiz al-Asad, a Moslem fundamentalist opposition leader, 'Ali Bayanuni, said here today.

Mr Bayanuni said the coalition groups the banned Moslem Brotherhood, the pro-Iraqi wing of Ba'th Party, the Arab Socialist Party, the Islamic Front and "independent political figures representing various political currents in Syria." The Communist Party is not represented.

The charter, drafted on March 11, proclaims Islam "the state religion" and accuses President Asad, in power for the past 12 years, of having "betrayed the Arab cause" and of attempting to "liquidate the Palestinian resistance."

It calls for Syria to follow a "policy of non-alignment" and stresses the need to "liberate Palestine from the Zionist usurper."

According to Mr Bayanuni, who declined to state where the charter had been drafted, the bloody clashes between government forces and Moslem rebels in the north Syrian town of Hamah last month helped to inspire the new charter linking religious and nationalist Syrian opposition movements.

VOL CLAIMS 3 KILLED IN ALEPPO EXPLOSION 18 MAR

NC191555 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] We have received reports that three people were killed and others injured in an explosion yesterday in a shop in the Al-Manshiyah quarter. It has been noted that there are mutual military concentrations on the northern Iraqi-Syrian border. In the meantime, some Soviet experts began leaving Aleppo.

The special units are besieging the city of Aleppo today, particularly the quarters of Al-Ansari, Al-Kallasah and the grand mosque. Three days ago, clashes occurred in these areas leaving an unidentified number of victims. The clashes occurred as the special units were seeking the hideout of Muslim Brotherhood leader Ahmad 'Uqlah, who managed to flee to Aleppo from Hamah. He had signed leaflets, which were distributed in Aleppo, calling for resisting the authorities.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL PRAISES SYRIA, ADF

JN201437 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Mar (SANA) -- Salim as-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, vice chairman of the Palestine National Council and Fatah Central Committee member, has praised Syria's role under the leadership of President al-Asad, particularly concerning the Palestinian cause.

In an exclusive interview with the SANA correspondent in Kuwait, Salim az-Za'nun said the Palestinian revolution highly values Syria's firm stand in support of the Palestinians. He also said: Syria and the Palestinians are in one trench. Therefore, Zionist aggression cannot succeed in ending and liquidating the Palestinian presence as terrorist Menahem Begin claimed. This will never happen, he added.

The Palestinian official called for keeping the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon and said that their presence is a pan-Arab necessity to confront the plots that aim at upsetting the balance of power in Lebanon in the interest of the Zionist enemy.

BA'TH SECRETARY RECEIVES YAR OPPOSITION LEADER

JN201940 Damascus Domestic Television service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this evening received a delegation of the Secretariat of the Democratic National Front [DNF] in the YAR. The delegation is led by Brother Sultan 'Umar, DNF secretary general, and included Hasan Shukri and Mujahid al-Kahali, members of the DNF Secretariat, and Abu Kamal, DNF representative in Syria and Lebanon. The meeting was attended by Comrade 'Abd al-Hafiz Nu'man, member of the party's national command.

After welcoming the delegation, Comrade al-Ahmar exchanged talks with its members on the current state of affairs in the Arab region and the means of facing the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught against our Arab nation.

Brother Sultan 'Umar outlined the conditions facing the DNF and the Yemeni people in light of the renewed fighting in the Yemeni arena. He also explained the front's efforts to maintain dialogue with the authorities in northern Yemen as an indispensable ground to spread security and stability in the country and to ensure the participation of the people and their various nationalist powers in further developing the homeland.

He asserted that fighting will not solve the problem and that although the DNF finds itself forced to defend itself against the offensives, it still underlines the importance of bringing about a national accord to safeguard the national unity of the Yemeni people.

Brother Sultan 'Umar voiced the front's and the Yemeni people's condemnation of the Muslim Brotherhood gangs' plots against Syria, which are in accordance with an imperialist-Zionist-reactionary design that intends to engage Syria and weaken its steadfastness in the face of the Camp David plot, and Israel's aggression, which was recently manifested in the annexation of the Golan.

He also denounced the reactionaries' plotting against the Arab cause and their attempts to transform Oman into a base of plotting against the Arab masses and their progressive regimes. He asserted that the DNF stands firmly alongside Syria and the other forces of Arab steadfastness in the face of all the threats jeopardizing the Arab nation and in order to foil U.S. imperialist designs and destroy the tools of the reactionary and agent plotters.

Comrade Al-Ahmar thanked the head and members of the delegation for their briefing on the DNF's efforts and struggle to face the difficult circumstances through which the fraternal Yemeni people are passing.

He reconfirmed Syria's support for maintaining a peaceful dialogue between the DNF and authorities in the YAR in order to bring about a national accord that may bolster the citizens' stability and security and ensure the largest possible popular participation in the development of this fraternal country so it can contribute to the Arab nation's battle.

Comrade al-Ahmar explained that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its revolution under the leadership of militant Comrade Hafiz al-Asad will continue to confront the plots of U.S. imperialism, Zionism and reaction, and will continue the Arab struggle in cooperation with the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front as well as the rest of the Arab revolution forces in order to liberate the occupied Arab territories, regain the Palestinian people's usurped rights and achieve the Arab nation's unity and progress.

IRANIAN MAJLIS DELEGATION ARRIVES 21 MAR

JN211955 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Mar

[Text] Dr Rohani, member of the Iranian Majlis, has asserted that Syria and Iran are working and struggling together for the sake of common objectives, especially in these decisive circumstances in which the United States and Israel are considered to be the main common enemy. Dr Rohani made this statement upon arrival in Damascus today. He is heading a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran on a 3-day visit to Syria at the invitation of the People's Assembly.

Dr Rohani stressed the need to consolidate the bonds of fraternity and friendship between the Syrian and Iranian peoples' in the interest of both peoples and their common objectives of confronting U.S. imperialists, Zionist and reactionary plans.

The Iranian delegation comprises 40 members, including the families of some of the martyrs of the Iranian revolution and the wife of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani speaker of the Majlis. The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by Ghassan Rajab, member of the Secretariat of the People's Assembly, and several assembly members and senior officials.

CABINET REVIEWS TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN

JN221824 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Damascus -- The cabinet held a meeting today during which Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm reviewed the political situation in the region under the present circumstances. The prime minister also outlined the positive results of the Syrian-Iranian talks that were held during the visit a Syrian delegation, headed by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister made to Tehran.

Dr al-Kasm explained that the two economic agreements concluded between Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran during this visit provided for supplying Syria with the necessary oil products and increasing trade in all commodities and products.

The cabinet then discussed and approved the bilateral oil and trade exchange agreements.

BA'TH PARTY, BUGLARIAN CP SIGN AGREEMENT

JN222045 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus -- The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] signed a joint cooperation agreement here this evening.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Ba'th Party by Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the party's national command and chairman of the Foreign Relations Office. On the BCP side, the agreement was signed by Comrade Dimitur Stanishev, BCP Central Committee secretary.

After the signing ceremony, cordial speeches were exchanged expressing the solid relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the two parties and the mutual desire to strengthen these relations in the service of the two friendly peoples' interests and their joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reactionaries.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR HANOI 23 MAR

JN230932 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 23 Mar (SANA) -- Comrade Zuhayr Mashariqah Ba'th Party Regional Command assistant secretary general, left Damascus for Hanoi today, heading a party delegation to attend the eighth summit of the Vietnamese Communist Party [VCP].

This visit is in response to an invitation from the VCP in order to consolidate relations between the Ba'th Party and the VCP.

YUGOSLAV INTERIOR MINISTER ARRIVES 22 MAR

JN221708 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus -- Yugoslav Interior Minister Franjo Herljevic and the members of his delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a 3-day official visit to Syria at the invitation of Interior Minister Nasir ad-Din Nasir. During the visit, they will hold talks on the means of bolstering bilateral cooperation.

Talks Begin

JN222034 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Official talks began here this evening between the Syrian side under Interior Minister Nasir ad-Din Nasir and the Yugoslav side under Interior Minister Franjo Herljevic. The talks focused on the scope of cooperation, the exchange of Interior Ministry expertise and the appropriate means of strengthening friendship in connection with the tasks of the two countries' Interior Ministries.

Interior Minister Nasir ad-Din Nasir received Herljevic in his office in the Interior Ministry and had a cordial discussion with him. The two ministers reiterated their concern for developing cooperation between their two ministries and strengthening relations in this field.

BEGIN: NO UNILATERAL MOVE IN TERRITORIES

TA230525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said last night that in accordance with the Camp David accords, Israel will not take any unilateral step in the territories before the end of the 5-year transitional period. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr Begin said the government's policy is set in Israel and that he was reserved about remarks by the ambassador to Washington, Moshe Arens. The U.S. media have recently published remarks by Arens to the effect that if there is no progress in the autonomy negotiations Israel will have to apply its law to Judaea and Samaria.

COMMANDER OR INTERVIEWED ON W. BANK SITUATION

TA222047 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Mar 82

["Evening Newsreel" interview with the commander of the Central Command, Maj Gen Ori Or, by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal on 22 March; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Maj Gen Ori Or, how is it that armed civilians wander about in Judaea and Samaria cities and fire weapons?

[Answer] I do not understand why you are opening with this question. This is not the major problem in Judaea and Samaria. There are many civilians living in Judaea and Samaria and each has the army's permission to carry arms. Therefore, each civilian has arms and if he finds himself in a situation...[sentence as heard] All the situations they have come across were such as to have no army near them at the first stage. In all these situations, including the one depicted on television yesterday, the civilians encountered the Arabs first. It should be mentioned that a children's bus they were accompanying and which was stoned was not photographed. The children were going to school and the civilians escort these children's buses. Thousands of people, dispersed throughout Judaea and Samaria, live in Judaea and Samaria. Each of them defends himself and possess arms.

[Question] Why didn't IDF soldiers rather than civilians do the firing there?

[Answer] Because the IDF soldiers, in the concrete case you are talking about, arrived after them and the moment the IDF soldiers arrived they stopped shooting. The soldiers told them to stop and they stopped a minute later.

[Question] We have reports that settlers received tear gas grenades from soldiers. How do you allow such a thing to take place?

[Answer] We are looking into this matter to check whether this is indeed so. In any event it is forbidden for soldiers to give them tear gas grenades. If they indeed do so, this is an offense and the soldiers will be punished.

[Question] Major General Or, we see armed Israeli civilians on the one hand and rebellious local inhabitants on the other hand. Is this the way you foresaw coexistence in Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] (?Did you see) rebellious Arab inhabitants here? First, it was not me who foresaw or did not foresee the coexistence. This is a political question and it is not for me to answer. It is a fact that most of the year it is quiet and people live their lives.

I do not know what kind of coexistence this is but people do live one along side the other. There are Jewish settlements which live on better terms with the Arabs and there are some who have worse relations with Arabs. Now that there is very wild incitment by the PLO-led municipalities and by PLO inciters in Judaea and Samaria, there are instigations -- there is no civilian uprising or anything of the sort -- which reach the point of stoning and setting tires on fire in the streets. These are visible strong incidents. Some soldiers were hit in the head by stones. So far, all the soldiers -- and I take note of this -- have fulfilled the instructions on opening fire. They fired in the air on many occasions, the Arabs got used to us shooting in the air and then they advanced and threw stones. The moment lives are at stake an officer is authorized to give the order for fire to be directed at the feet of the attackers.

[Question] Can we now expect a period of conflagration and tension in this region, perhaps in view of the struggle over autonomy?

[Answer] In the future too, in my opinion, we will witness ups and downs. There is no doubt that over the past few weeks we have witnessed the beginning of serious struggle as to who will control Judaea and Samaria: either the Civilian Administration with the village leagues members -- who are not collaborators but people who want to live peacefully here and who believe in peace talks with Israel, in some political solution on which I would not like to elaborate in my capacity as commander. There is no question that in the foreseeable future the region will be safer. Talks are being conducted on the autonomy issue, as you have mentioned. Due to the dismissal of the Al-Birah mayor the PLO leadership feels that the ground is burning under their feet. There is hardly any other terrorist activity throughout the territory, neither in the north nor via Jordan. We should prevent this. Their only reason to exist -- and we know they are doing this and anyone who heard the PLO radio yesterday is aware of this -- is to incite all people in Judaea and Samaria into anti-Israeli activity. However, for all the incitment, Nabulus was open today, Hebron was open while Ramallah was less open -- business there opened and closed alternately.

Of course I do not see the situation calming. The problem is not being settled now. I repeatedly explain to the officer and all: The solution of Judaea and Samaria is political, not military. We, as a defense establishment, and I, as the commander responsible for this region, should take care that the area is as calm as possible and let the politicians make whatever decision they make. It is this that we are trying to do and as you said, there are better or worse periods.

[Question] Major General Or, the IDF has taken very firm action in putting an end to every manifestation or rebellion. Is this a policy aimed at nipping this uprising in the bud?

[Answer] I repeat -- you can say rebellion but I do not accept this word. These are riots or disturbances. There are instigatory acts. I do not recognize the terms soft-line or hard-line policy. I would put it as prudent policy. Nobody enters quiet areas and there are no soldiers there at all. There is no army in two-thirds of Judaea and Samaria. In places such as Al-Birah, Ramallah and Nabulus where disturbances took place we acted more firmly and did so in order to put an end to the events we have mentioned, and we will succeed in this. Today it was already quieter, and I assume that in another day or two we will completely succeed.

[Question] As an executor of policy, Major General Or, the closing off of towns -- at least on the face of it -- seems a collective punishment. What security gains, both immediate and possibly long-term, do you draw from this?

[Answer] There are gains drawn from this. I agree this is a collective punishment but it is collective as regards a certain town which does not do enough to prevent events occurring within it. In principle we are trying to avoid collective punishment but from results in the field we know that urban people are starting to realize it is not very convenient to have irregular business, irregular work and less traffic in sites where stones are thrown.

There is no way out of this since some of the recent events have been of the collective nature as well. I cannot say that the entire Al-Birah municipality or all of the Al-Birah residents threw stones but there were certainly many in the Al-Birah and Ramallah towns who participated or at least turned a blind eye and covered up for others. It is our experience that such a penalty sometimes has its effect and produces enough reasons for the residents to press for stopping the stoning and other disturbances.

[Question] We have already heard and seen that the village leagues members receive arms and training from the IDF. The guards, as they are called, seem also prepared to use these arms. In your opinion, do we not create a militia in Judaea and Samaria or, if you like, to take the genie out of the bottle?

[Answer] No, I think not. At the moment I am confident this is not so. It is my impression and knowledge that in the future too Mustafa Dudin and the others will use these arms only to defend themselves. Their lives are indeed in danger. Jordan's recent declaration threatening them with the death penalty -- and here Jordan is cooperating with the PLO on the village leagues issue -- arouses fears for their lives. These arms were given to them to defend their lives. It is for this that they use the arms, nothing more than this.

W. BANK MAYORS REPORTED AWAITING SIGNAL FROM PLO

TA202041 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Report by correspondent on Arab affairs Ehud Ya'ari -- live]

[Text] The mayors in the territories, particularly Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah, are now awaiting an explicit signal from the PLO leadership as to whether to submit a collective resignation of the municipal councils as an act of solidarity with the Al-Birah council which was disbanded 2 days ago. The PLO had instructed the mayors to boycott the Civilian Administration and to refuse to cooperate with it. This order, which originated in Beirut, was what led to the test of power which will also continue in the next few days.

At this stage, the mayors loyal to the rejection front, such as Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, who had advocated an immediate resignation, have been silenced. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has even come out in public against such a move. However, the man who will make the decision, Bassam ash-Shak'ah, is listening to the voices coming from Beirut. And if our analysis of the voices heard so far is correct, then the PLO in not eager to bring about the resignation of the municipal councils, fearing that the Israeli Defense Ministry would not mourn such a development.

Khalil al-Wazir -- alias Abu Jihad -- the man in charge of the territories in the PLO, as well as other spokesmen on behalf of the territories, have hinted that they are seeking ways to retaliate which would not require the resignation of the municipal councils. Among other things, the PLO has demanded a meeting next Monday of the joint committee with Jordan to handle the situation together.

The impression given is that the PLO had not foreseen such a harsh reaction by Israel following the boycott of the Civilian Administration. However, in the wake of the disbandment of the Al-Birah Municipal Council and the firm policy adopted by the IDF against demonstrations and strikes, PLO circles and its supporters in the territories fear that a continuing boycott of the Civilian Administration would bring about the disbandment of other municipal councils. This is because within 1 month Ash-Shak'ah, Karim Khalaf or the mayors of smaller towns will be summoned to the Civilian Administration -- and if they refuse to heed the invitation, Israel may disband other councils.

This is a serious dilemma and the PLO will in the next few days try to maneuver in such a way so that it can both continue boycotting the Civilian Administration and maintain its status among the municipal councils.

For the moment, the PLO's solution is to ignite rebellion and strikes, to put pressure on Israel and to withhold the serious decision whether to resign or let Ibrahim at-Tawil of Al-Birah pay the price all by himself. For its part, the Israeli Government, must first and foremost decide for its own sake whether it is ready to bring about the disbandment of the municipal councils and enter a lengthy confrontation which may ultimately lead to closing the bridges over the Jordan River.

MAYORS CONTEMPLATING COLLECTIVE RESIGNATION

TA202013 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] The mayors of Judaea and Samaria are contemplating resigning collectively to protest the disbandment of the Al-Birah Municipal Council and the measures adopted by the Civilian Administration. Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah this evening told our correspondent Rafiq Halabi that the mayors would not allow the Civilian Administration to carry out its plans. Ash-Shak'ah believes that the mayors in the Gaza Strip would also join the resignation, their goal being to prevent what he calls the Civilian Administration's schemes to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The mayor of Nabulus has sent a telegram to the defense minister denouncing the invasion by IDF soldiers into the municipality building amid shots and tear gas. Our correspondent adds that the mayors in Judaea and Samaria have appealed to the Al-Birah municipal workers and the local inhabitants asking them not to cooperate with the Civilian Administration officials. The Bethlehem Municipal Council has decided not to resign even if all the municipal councils in the territories were to resign. The mayor of Bethlehem said he would not give such a prize to the Civilian Administration. According to the mayor of Bethlehem, the lion's share of the Civilian Administration's efforts are invested in destroying houses, in closing down colleges and in setting up a militia in the territories.

NABULUS MAYOR AGAINST INDIVIDUAL RESIGNATION

TA211320 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah told our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari less than an hour ago that he is not in favor of the way Karim Khalaf, the mayor of Ramallah, resigned as he thinks that if resignation is chosen, it should be collective. This morning Ash-Shak'ah told our correspondent that he was in favor of resignation as a form of struggle. Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah said: I believe in resignation, which is also a way of fighting and the Nabulus municipality will indeed resign if this is needed.

'ANABTA MAYOR TO FACE MILITARY TRIAL THIS WEEK

TA222005 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] 'Anabta Mayor Wahid al-Hamdallah will face a military trial in the middle of the week. A few days ago he was interrogated on the suspicion that he had violated an order restricting him to his town. He was found in possession of a petition to the Jordanian Government containing proposals as to how to act against the area village leagues.

CABINET VOWS TO CONTROL UNREST IN WEST BANK

TA220558 Jerusalem POST in English 22 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by diplomatic affairs correspondent]

[Excerpts] The government yesterday reiterated its determination "to maintain law and order in the administered territories" and never to agree to "the partition of Eretz Yisra'el or the creation of a Palestinian state." The declaration came at the end of a long Cabinet meeting -- designated a session of the secret ministerial defence committee -- at which Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon reported on the unrest in Judaea and Samaria.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin reportedly asked Sharon to give a message of encouragement to Israeli soldiers engaged in riot control in Judaea and Samaria. The premier congratulated the soldiers on their self-restraint. He also expressed sorrow over the fatal shooting of the Arab youth in the demonstration in Al-Birah on Saturday. Speaking in Haifa yesterday, Sharon strongly attacked the Alignment for "aiding and abetting" the anti-Israel Druze extremists on the Golan and those leaders in Judaea and Samaria who openly support the PLO terrorism. "There is no Arab problem that cannot be solved -- but they are creating a Jewish problem, he said.

RAMALLAH TO BE REQUIRED TO COOPERATE WITH MILSON

TA221002 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Excerpt] It was learned last night that Ramallah will most probably be the second town in Judaea and Samaria whose leaders will be required to cooperate with the Civilian Administration. If they refuse, they will be dismissed and an appointed municipal council will be named, just as one has been appointed in the neighboring town of Al-Birah. It has been learned that administration circles have long been reviewing the way the affairs of the Ramallah municipality are being conducted. Yesterday Judaea and Samaria mayors and public figures met and decided to extend the general strike by 2 days. Security officials have reacted to this by saying that as far as they are concerned the strike can continue even for another week, provided that public order is maintained.

GENERAL STRIKE TO CONTINUE IN WEST BANK

TA220722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] The general strike in Judaea and Samaria will also continue today. This decision was made last night by nationalist bodies in the territories to protest what they call the continuing oppression. The strike has been extended by another 2 days. Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria, Arye Gus, is here in the studio and he will review the situation in the territories.

[Gus -- live] According to observers, the decision to extend the strike by another 2 days implies a certain weakening of the so-called nationlist organizations. This amorphous body composed of representatives of municipal councils, chambers of commerce, women and workers organizations is the body which has been waging the public anti-Israeli campaign for a long time. The observers argue that by prolonging the strike the municipal councils extended themselves another period of grace to formulate a position and to decide on future moves. The mayors particularly need this period of grace to reassess the intentions of the Civilian Administration. According to the mayors, the rumors about investigations of embezzlement in the municipalities of Nabulus and Ramallah are aimed at preparing the ground for the expulsion of Ash-Shak'ah and Khalaf.

This situation calls for a reassessment especially in light of the fact that the PLO has not yet extended explicit guidelines to the municipalities about future actions. In any case, the trend emerging at this moment is that the mayors will not resign. The [east Jerusalem] paper AL-QUDS carries an article in the same vein this morning. If a mayor were to resign it would be easier for Israel to appoint an Arab to replace him; if he were to be expelled or dismissed it will be impossible to find an Arab who would agree to assume the post.

In the meantime, fear of the village leagues has heightened in the territories. The nationalist bodies are proudly pointing out the names of those people who resigned which have been published in the press. However, the resignations have been on a very small scale and to date the strength of the village leagues -- and certainly not the strength of the head of the Hebron Area Village League, Mustafa Dudin -- has not been affected.

The general strike and the curfew imposed in various places will continue this morning. Sharp reactions on the part of the municipalities of Hebron and Bethlehem issued denunciations holding the Civilian Administration responsible for the deteriorating situation in the territories.

DUDIN JUSTIFIES DISBANDMENT OF AL-BIRAH COUNCIL

TA221229 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] The head of the Hebron Area Village League, Mustafa Dudin, has justified the disbandment of the Al-Birah Municipal Council not for political reasons but for administrative reasons, as he phrased it. Speaking to our correspondent, Arye Gus, Dudin said that the municipal councils should see to the well-being of the inhabitants and they could not possibly sever ties with the authorities. He said tension in the territories stemmed from the boycott Jordan has imposed on the village leagues and noted this move could not but worsen things.

VIOLENCE, STRIKES CONTINUE IN WEST BANK AREA

TA230840 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] There were several incidents in east Jerusalem this morning. Our correspondnet Moti 'Eden reports that hundreds of police and border police are patrolling east Jerusalem. A youth who had set a tire ablaze and flew a Palestinian flag was detained inside the walls of the old city of Jerusalem. There were also several cases of stonings in east Jerusalem. An ITIM correspondent reports that police discovered a cache of tires slated for burning. Early this morning a tear gas grenade was thrown toward Daniyel garden near the municipal building in Jerusalem. A search by police uncovered another tear gas grenade that did not explode.

Despite the orders distributed yesterday on behalf of the commander of the Central Command to over 100 merchants in east Jerusalem, this morning only 100 shops opened, and east Jerusalem youths are reported to be making efforts to incite businessmen to keep up the strike. Only one of five large schools in east Jerusalem is open this morning.

Fifteen residents, including three teachers, were detained in Samaria towns yesterday on suspicion of having participated in violent demonstrations. The teachers are employed in a Tulkarm school. They are suspected of having instigated students to violence and that they themselves attacked IDF soldiers during the dispersal of a demonstration.

Seven youths were detained in the 'Askar refugee camp in the Nabulus area. They are suspected of an assault on the local police station and of damaging a police car.

They are also charged with instigation to violence in the course of which two of the camp inhabitants were wounded by soldiers' fire. In addition, An-Najah University students suspected of having hoisted the Palestinian flag were also picked up.

A handgrenade was yesterday thrown at an Israeli car moving through the (Saja'iyah) crossroads south of Nahal 'Oz. At 1900 in the evening a Volkswagen car arrived at the IDF roadblock in Erez and the driver claimed that when he had driven through the crossroads located about 1 km south of Nahal 'Oz a handgrenade was hurled at him. There were no casualties but the driver's wife was suffering from shock. The security forces went to the site and found the pin of the handgrenade. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that the road was closed to traffic during the night and detentions were carried out in the region.

DEMONSTRATORS INJURE IDF SOLDIER IN NABULUS AREA

TA230917 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpt] An IDF officer was injured in the head by a stone hurled at him by demonstrators near the Balatah refugee camp in the Nabulus area. Demonstrations continued in several West Bank places today as well, tires were set on fire and stones were thrown at security personnel. The military authorities have imposed a blockade on Halhul which bars Halhul residents from leaving or entering the town.

JERUSALEM MAYOR CRITICIZES IDF W. BANK POLICY

TA221228 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek has attacked the security forces policy, saying that it shows no signs of there being a guideline for it. In his opinion the shops [in East Jerusalem] should not be opened by force, and he added that the Jerusalem municipality's lenient policy has proved effective.

SHIM'ON PERES CRITICIZES WEST BANK POLICY

TA221549 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1455 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv, 22 Mar -- I believe that in May 1982, after the evacuation of the Sinai, there is a chance to change the government in Israel. We will not support a national unity government since the assessment is that one of the reactions of the Begin government would be to annex Judaea and Samaria, and we will not sit with Begin in the same government for this, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said today in a meeting with the party affairs correspondents in Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv.

At the beginning of his remarks Mr Peres emphasized that the decision to submit a motion of no-confidence is mainly a result of the recent flurry of events. "If the government does what it does and wants to fall, I do not think we should prevent it from doing so."

On Ari'el Sharon's activity as defense minister, the Labor Party chairman said: "Arik is a strange person. He did not grow up within the revisionist movement and he is still behaving as if he did. However, what has come of the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation and what has come of the reorganization in the Defense Ministry? The soft hand in the territories has become a firm hand. Is the Alignment to blame for this? However, this is the revisionist style to look for the enemy from within."

On Mr Peres' being responsible for the election of the West Bank mayors he said: "The elections have improved the situation in the territories and the government has agreed to autonomy on this basis.

I have not seen any alternative to what was customary in the territories. Are the village leagues an alternative? Is it desirable that IDF officers represent the municipalities? If the government is heading to a conflict between the inhabitants of the territories and Jordan -- do those who think this should be the case believe that the residents of the territories will become Israeli citizens? The majors cooperated with us. West Bank leaders such as Al-Masri and Hamdi Kin'an cooperated with us but still wanted Arab sovereignty in the West Bank just like Ash-Shak'ah and his colleagues. Is this the [right] attempt to separate the residents from the PLO? Peres asked.

On the government's readiness to annex Judaea and Samaria Mr Peres said this will not lead us anywhere. In his opinion such an annexation would turn the State of Israel into a Jewish-Arab state and our political condition vis-a-vis the world would not be easier. "I view this only as an enhancement of the country's economic plight. Such a situation will develop after the withdrawal, when all of our assets which are slated for negotiations come to an end. We are approaching a difficult, more complicated situation. Our image, as depicted in the eyes of the world which watches us on television is harsh. This does not add honor to the state." Mr Peres added that the Labor Party has already announced it will vote against annexing Judaea and Samaria. "We adopted such a decision in the Labor Party bureau and this decision is binding."

Shim'on Peres came out firmly against any possibility of establishing a national unity government. "We are for a change of government since Mr Begin's policy is conducive only to a deadlock. I do not see such a proposal as feasible. Only a change in government and elections will alter the state of affairs. To annex another 1.3 million Arabs to Israel is the gravest mistake of this government."

Mr Peres stressed that in his opinion the Jordan bridges should not be closed since we should talk with the Jordanians and solve the Palestinian problem with their help. "I have not changed my mind. A separation between the Palestinians and Jordan aggravates the Palestinian problem." Mr Peres was asked what circumstances could bring about a change of government. He noted he would not speculate but possibilities do exist." The religious parties for example, sit in the government on the basis of religious concessions [last word in English] and not on the basis of political agreement. The government relies on 60 Knesset members and this is a shaky structure. I will not elaborate on this issue."

Begin Spokesman Reacts

TA231014 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Mar 82 p 1

[Text] A spokesman for the prime minister's office reacted this morning to a statement made by Shim'on Peres yesterday to the effect that in May, after the Sinai withdrawal, there will be a chance for a change of government. The spokesman said: "Peres has sewn a smoking jacket for himself, but he will not be wearing it."

MINISTER SHARON VISITS HEBRON, MEETS DUDIN

TA221645 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon visited Hebron at noon today and met with the head of the Mt Hebron Area Village League, Mustafa Dudin. Minister Sharon said nothing afterwards, but Dudin said they had discussed his request to receive financial assistance from the Israeli Government in the next fiscal year. According to Dudin, the defense minister promised to raise the issue with the Cabinet. Earlier, Minister Sharon met in Ramallah with the head of the local area village league there, Jamil al-Khatib. Tomorrow, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will brief the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee on the situation in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Ari'el Sharon will bring with him to the briefing the head of the Civilian Administration, Menahem Milson, and senior IDF officers.

WEST BANK WRITER ADDRESSES PROFESSOR MILSON

TA190813 Jerusalem POST in English 19 Mar 82 p 6

["Open letter" to head of the Judaea and Samaria Civilian Administration, Professor Menahem Milson by "Palestinian" Author and politician writing under the pseudonym of Abu Zirr al-Ja'far -- date not given]

[Text] If you want me to address you in the way most Israelis like to be addressed, there is no chance you will understand the motivation behind this letter. But if both of us -- you and I -- agree that we have to evaluate honestly the policies of the Israeli West Bank administration and their implementation, then there may yet be hope for Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. It must be based, first of all, on acknowledging mistakes, and, second, on mutual recognition.

To achieve any kind of Israeli-Palestinian coexistence there must be communication between Israelis and Palestinians. This should be the goal of your Civil Administration; this communication is what we -- both Israeli and Palestinian -- hope for. But this dialogue cannot be based on a master-slave relationship; it must be a dialogue between equals. You as administrator must be able to hear criticism, to admit your mistakes, and to understand why we are grieved. You should be able to take advice from the Palestinians that you govern and to listen to our hopes.

I think Israelis have no business classifying the Palestinians as "moderates" or " "extremists" as "good Arabs" or "bad Arabs." This game of labels reflects only your own interests and will be a perpetual stumbling block to a just and rational relationship with the Palestinian people.

We expected radical change of policy in the transition from a military to a Civil Administration. In fact, the changes were in name only. "Civil Administration" and "civil governors" simply meant that old military faces were exchanged for new military faces.

The Palestinian people are a separate nation, and any Israeli approach based on trying to Israelize the Palestinians is just like flinging mud in our faces.

Your erroneous approach toward governing the West Bank has not only damaged the peace process, but has revealed your incapacity to rule another nation. I am sure you know better than anyone else that the Jewish people only destroyed themselves when they tried to rule other peoples. Will you repeat the mistakes of your own history in this very land? Are you, the Jews, fated to nurture your own self-destruction?

If your task as West Bank administrator is to perpetuate short-sighted Israeli policy, then I would advise you to take off your professorial robes and join the tank battalions. But if you see yourself as a part of a serious effort toward Palestinian-Israeli communication and, eventually, mutual understanding, then I would like to put a challenge to you.

Your challenge, as I see it, is not to restrict the activities and influence of the PLO and its supporters, or to encourage West Bank moderates. Rather it is to effect a change in Israel's attitude toward the Palestinian people.

When you decided to employ the same approach as your predecessors, then, as the defence minister once put it, you condemned yourself to failure. The same khaki, the same Israelis -- and not the best -- were sent to the West Bank. I need not remind you of the many mistakes the West Bank military administration made during the last 14 years. You yourself were clearly aware of those mistakes when you were at Bet El as the Arab affairs adviser, you yourself told your Arab and Israeli friends jokes about the ridiculous errors of the generals and colonels of the Military Government.

I also know that you told your friends in Israel and in the West Bank that Civil Administration was designed to end that era of mistakes, that you would put things in order and you would be assisted by an experienced and capable staff. Your appointment as head of this Civil Administration raised hopes and expectations. The residents of the occupied areas looked forward to your "new beginning," to reasonable civil administration based on political and social realities within the occupied areas.

But the people of the West Bank were disappointed.

The "new blood" slogan you touted turned out to mean the choices of certain powerful cliques. Personal vendettas and prejudices motivated most of the appointments of the so-called civil government. I will not name names, but we all know that the carrot is only the cousin of the turnip.

What about Palestinian reaction to your plans -- if you actually have an over-all plan? And what about your relations with the residents of the West Bank?

The first steps taken under your administration led several West Bank mayors to boycott you and your representatives, the civil governors. Your alliance with that "illegitimate baby," the village leagues -- and your speech at the memorial service in honor of the assassinated head of the Ramallah Village League -- muddied your image as a knowledgeable professor and administrator. The speech showed you to be a poor Arabist, unfamiliar with the fine art of correctly eulogizing a deserving man. Not every assassinated leader is a martyr -- unless you want to sound like Mustafa Dudin!

(Dudin is chairman of the Hebron Area Village League, and a former Jordanian minister).

As you know the Military Government forbids West Bank residents the right of political activity, but then engages in politics itself -- with selected individuals, behind closed doors.

Mordekhay Tzipori, when he was deputy defence minister, once complained that West Bank leaders speak to the public and to the media in a totally different language from that of the closed rooms and private discussions. This problem is a product of military rule, and not a matter of "multi-lingual" leaders! The absence of any popular base for these politicians makes it difficult for them to raise their voices -- as it permits their words behind those closed doors to be blown away with the first wind.

The Military Government's goods were marketed only to the older, established West Bank personalities who were accurately called the old-line traditionalists. The so-called brilliant political advisers to the Military Government thought -- and still think -- that the failure of military rule was the result of opposition from "extremists." After the 1976 municipal elections these advisers began the game of creating individual favourites among the West Bank towns by giving facilities to "X" and by denying facilities to "Y," by changing personnel, and by making peace with a particular leader for one month and then litigating him six months later.

The military rulers' relations with the Palestinians were established solely on an individual basis. Because of this, should an Egyptian-Israeli agreement on the autonomy scheme be reached tomorrow, only one or two Palestinian individuals would accept it.

And now it seems that your Civil Administration is betting on the same losing horses.

The establishment of the so-called village leagues, for example could be labelled political scandal. Insistence on imposing these obsolete structures on the Palestinians not only indicates an ignorance of political realities; it also suggests that Israelis see the Palestinians as "camel jockeys' or rural shepherds who can easily be led where you want them to go.

No, my dear professor, you should know better than any other Israeli that the Palestinians are not politically ignorant or naive. Everywhere in Israel we read and hear that the Palestinians have a high standard of education, that they are urbane and cultured. It is clearly a ridiculous paradox to attempt to impose "village" leagues on them while the Israelis publicly acknowledge their sophistication.

Perhaps you ought to be excused for the dilemma in which you find yourself. It appears that, along with the khaki, you inherited the lack of any consistent and honourable Israeli policy for the occupied areas. I believed that you had come to Bet-el with a detailed plan for West Bank administration, but it seems that I was naive on that count.

A shrewd journalist once asked the former West Bank commander, General "Fu'd," (Tal-Aluf [brigadier general] Ben-eli'Ezer) "What is your policy in the occupied areas?"

"To keep the Arabs from throwing stones at Israeli cars," Fu'ad replied.

As far as the facts show, your administration has given itself only one other task besides the prevention of stone-throwing: protecting the collaborators in the village leagues.

The ordinary Palestinian living on the West Bank no longer cries for the Israelis "to be swept into the sea." He wants to coexist with the people who have made Israel their home. You must not -- the world must not -- judge the Palestinian on the basis of sensational international headlines. I call on my people, the Palestinians, also, not to judge the Israelis on the basis of headlines. Great efforts should be made on both sides to turn the mutual hope of co-existence into action and into reality.

I want to list for you some -- I repeat some -- examples of Israeli policies which provoke the Palestinian mind. These are some of the things which rub salt in the wounds of occupation. These are some of the things which, in addition to the policies of seizing land, deny our dignity and identity in our own homeland and make us doubtful of Israel's so-called "peaceful intentions."

1) You must protect the ordinary man from the greed and corruption of the village leagues, which insist on bribes for assisting in the most mundane matters. I myself have details of several such cases -- dates, names, the amount of the bribes. One of the leaders of the Hebron Village League, who frequently complained of the small sums coming from the joint [Jordan-PLO] committee in Amman, has recently built a palatial home costing 150,000 Jordanian dinars (about $450,000). Where did this money come from?

2) Some of the so-called officers of the Civil Administration -- for education, welfare, interior, etc -- are completely ignorant, and brought to Bet-el only because they speak Arabic. Others show us that Israelis can be easily bribed by the people they are supposed to be helping. If you wish to establish this, just see where these "officers" spend their evenings, and visit their luxurious homes with crystal chandeliers. Anyone who dares to criticize them or even to make a facetious comment will be victimized, if not terrorized. The Egyptian expression "big rats," coined during As-Sadat's regime to refer to corrupt administrations, is what we should call these "officers."

3) One of the big achievements of Israeli rule in the West Bank has been to increase the number of village mukhtars. Every day a new mukhtar is appointed. I am afraid that the whole West Bank will be turned into a million mukhtars. And why? I don't know. In fact I do know -- and I hope you know.

4) Every other Israeli "serves in the West Bank." Even those who work in the railway station in Haifa, who speak two or three Arabic words such as "marhaba" or "salam 'aleikum'" insist on being treated as Arab affairs advisers who know the Arab mentality, tradition, culture and policies.

5) If a young student -- or just an ordinary Palestinian -- is heard using PLO-like language, he is arrested, imprisoned and fined. But if a supporter of a village league attacks people and uses his gun in a public place, he is automatically pardoned and given a kiss of admiration. This appears very arbitrary to the ordinary Palestinian.

6) Those Arabs who have professional and social contacts with Israelis abuse these relationships, using them to threaten other Palestinians. They seem to be able to take the law into their own hands without any official reaction.

7) As a result of all these abuses of power, the civil departments of the West Bank administration -- health, welfare, education -- are staffed largely by incompetent, weak, blindly obedient people who know nothing about their responsibilities or dare not argue with their Israeli superiors.

These are some of the things which make us desperate, my dear Israeli professor... There are people on both sides who say that it is already too late to correct the damage done by occupation; they are pessimistic about any future. I have given you a bleak picture of how things are today; these are the reasons some people have so little hope. But I look forward to the way things should and could be. I believe there is still room for hope. Israelis and Palestinians may yet communicate as equals. But, professor, it is the responsibility of those who conceive and implement Israel's policy towards the Palestinians to make that hope a reality.

[Signed] Abu Zirr al-Ja'far

MA'ARIV COMMENTARY ASSESSES WEST BANK SITUATION

TA221132 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Mar 82 p 5

[Moshe Zaq commentary: "The Plan That Went Awry"]

[Text] On 15 May 1967, the day An-Nasir introduced his army to the Sinai approaches, thus setting the wheels in motion for the 6-day war, the New York weekly, REPORTER, published a rather revealing interview with Yasir 'Arafat in which he admitted that he wanted to involve the Arab countries in a war with Israel. He argued that in such a war Israel would conquer the "West Bank" and the Gaza Strip and would thus create the basis for a Palestinian civil uprising.

This is what he said prior to the 6-day war, and this is how he explained the terrorist activities of his organization, Fatah, which played quite an important role in pushing toward war. And indeed, the war Yasir 'Arafat strove to launch came, but not exactly according to his prediction. Although Judaea, Samaria and Gaza were subjected to Israeli rule as a result of the war, the civil mutiny he had anticipated did not come. Nearly 15 years have elapsed, many changed have occurred in those areas, and yet the Palestinian civil uprising 'Arafat desired did not erupt.

Now, on the eve of the handover of the rest of the Sinai to Egypt -- which is thus trying to "settle" the account of the war it was entangled in 15 years ago as a result of 'Arafat's provocation -- the PLO is planning yet another move aimed at involving the Arab countries, and particularly Egypt, in a political confrontation with Israel.

The PLO scheme was to "spoil" the Egyptian party upon retrieving the Sinai by way of a series of violent demonstrations in Judaea and Samaria. This proved to be delayed reaction in pursuit of 'Arafat's dream of 1967. Yet the Israeli administration seems to have misshuffled the PLO cards by advancing the date for the confrontation even before the PLO has succeeded in gaining control over all the civilian power centers in Judaea and Samaria. The "area village leagues" overt opposition to the mayors, who are the PLO representatives in Judaea and Samaria, has embarrassed the leadership the PLO has been trying to put on its feet inside the "territories."

The Israeli authorities did not wait for the PLO to prepare the show of "civil mutiny" with which it hoped to accompany the Israeli evacuation of the Sinai. It was clear from the word go that the dismissal of the Al-Birah mayor would lure the bear out of its cave and accelerate the confrontation even before the PLO had completed all its preparations. This is really what happened: As soon as the blow was dealt to the PLO leadership in Judaea and Samaria, it came out with a confused reaction; the PLO terrorists were not yet prepared to come out into the streets and preferred to send young boys to throw stones, or pay mercenaries to set tires on fire.

The PLO leadership in Beirut still does not know what to advise the other mayors to do: should they resign or not. The mayors for their part know that they are still not ready for the armed struggle the PLO leadership in Beirut wanted to prepare for. Only now can we witness the political preparations toward the convening the UN Security Council, toward launching a diplomatic campaign throughout the world. Granted, as far as television coverage is concerned, curfews, roadblocks, shattered windshields, casualties and, above all, burning tires are most impressive, but the PLO representatives in Judaea and Samaria nevertheless know even after only 3 days of the strike that they have failed: They did not manage to bring about an armed uprising by the Judaea and Samaria population. The population -- and not only the rural inhabitants -- want to prevent the people of Beirut from riding herd on it.

This is not the first time that tires have been burned in Judaea and Samaria. When the Civilian Administration was established in lieu of the Military Government just a few months ago, the PLO representatives in Judaea and Samaria declared a protest strike and caused disturbances in various towns. When shots of these disturbances were shown on television, it seems as though the entire area was ablaze and going up in flames, but it took even less than a fortnight and all tempers calmed down.

The current disturbances will also wither and fade away quickly if the Israeli political establishment -- the coalition and the opposition alike -- would only avoid confusing the internal dispute with the delicate issue of who rules over Judaea and Samaria. Although the main opposition -- the "Labor" Party -- admittedly holds a view that differs with that of the ruling party in regard to the future of Judaea and Samaria, and even though it is a well-known truism that the "Labor" Party does not want Israel to have prolonged control over the Arab population, it appears that both the "Likud" and the Labor Party agree on the need to secure the safety and well-being of the IDF soldiers charged with maintaining public order in Judaea and Samaria. They must obey orders, and calm in Judaea and Samaria is also imperative for the sake of their own well-being.

The mistaken interpretations the Arab inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria have given to our Knesset deliberations might spur them into exercising even greater violence, which in turn will lead to a more vigorous reaction by the Israeli security forces. The domestic dispute and arguments here are legitimate, perhaps even essential, but they should not be taking place just now during these very hot days in Judaea and Samaria. We must make it clear to the inhabitants of the territories that we will not permit the PLO to gain control over them and show them that the PLO's path is a dead-end road. Only then will we be able to effect a calm, which is the foundation of any future negotiations and arrangements. In order to bring about calm, the settlers in Judaea and Samaria must also restrain themselves and refrain from pouring oil onto the PLO's fire.

WEST BANK PROTESTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ANTICIPATED

TA211858 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Mar 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Mutual Radicalization in the Occupied Territories"]

[Text] Whoever decided to dismiss the Al-Birah Municipal Council and to place an IDF officer at the head of the committee appointed to administer the town's affairs should have anticipated that this step would be protested by other Arab municipalities.

And if the heads of these institutions call for a 3-day general strike throughout the West Bank, demonstrations also could be anticipated. Given the violence of the demonstrations, the Military Government will be hard put to ignore them and let the demonstrators take control of the streets. In clashes between soldiers and demonstrators it is possible that at a given moment soldiers will open fire, and that some Arabs (and perhaps even soldiers) are liable to be killed or wounded. Events such as these do not come as surprises.

The question arises as to whether the situation in the West Bank need have developed in such a way as to preclude surprises. The Civil Administration dismissed the Al-Birah Municipal Council because it refused to meet with Professor Menahem Milson. The dismissal order was explained by the argument that the council's refusal prevents the maintenance of good government and public order. One could say that the council's decision was an open provocation of the Civil Administration and that whoever dared to provoke it was knowingly running the risk of a countermove. However, it is a fact -- as far as we can remember -- that none of the West Bank municipal councils ever refused a meeting with the military governors.

The intensification of Arab opposition follows the division between the civil and security roles of the Israeli Government. As a result of this division the governors were done away with. The Military Government no longer deals with civil matters, while decisions on security matters are made by the commander of the Central Command, who, in doing so, is not obliged to consider their political implications. The Arabs feel that the setting up of "civil" administration does not give them more freedom in running their daily affairs, but instead increases the army's freedom of action.

When the defense minister submitted this plan of division to the government on 4 October last year, he claimed that it would make it easier for recognized Arab public figures to accept positions in the civil government, thereby preparing the ground for the participation of the Arabs in autonomy when Israel and Egypt agree on its character. Since then nearly 6 months have passed, and the defense minister's hope has not been realized.

Defense circles maintain that almost all the mayors dance to the tune played by the PLO from across the border and that there is no basis for refuting this contention. As early as 1976, after the municipal elections, we saw the removal of more moderate elements and their replacement by PLO sympathizers or even its open supporters. However, in this result of the elections there lay an advantage: We were able to point to the granting of freedom to the inhabitants of the occupied territories, and our Military Government could be presented as an example of a liberal regime of occupation.

In the era of Begin's second government, Israel is apparently uninterested in maintaining such a regime or in the advantages it allowed us in explaining our cause. Official Israel treats the occupied territories more and more as a battleground on which to fight the PLO. The disadvantage of this approach is that it invariably pushes the Arabs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip toward the PLO's side, while a different policy might make it possible to impress on them the difference between their interests and those of the exiles in Beirut. Defense circles believe that breaking the rebellion will pave the road to autonomy. In contrast, the Arabs of the West Bank suspect that the autonomy a la Begin is meant to serve as a cover for the de facto annexation of the occupied territories. Those who heard the remarks of our ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arens, will find it difficult to claim that such fears are baseless.

JERUSALEM ARABIC COMMENTS ON WEST BANK EVENTS

JN221442 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab world 1125 GMT 22 Mar 82

["Observation" by Ibrahim 'Abdallah]

[Text] The regrettable events in some of the West Bank cities would not have taken place had it not been for the incitement of the terrorist organizations which, while claiming that they represent the Palestinians, are only harming them, their interests and their cause.

The terrorist organizations' only concern is to deprive the citizens in the West Bank and [Gaza] Strip of tranquility and calm and to make it impossible for them to live a normal life. That's why these organizations are instructing their agents in the West Bank to disrupt security and stability and to incite their kinfolk, particularly the young generation, to stage strikes and demonstrations and to foment trouble so that these disturbances can be exploited for purposes of propaganda. The organizations do not care if such a humble achievement takes place at the highest cost and at the expense of the Palestinians, their interests and their future.

No one ignores the magnitude of the harm that was done to the students when the organizations deprived them of pursuing their studies and pushed them into the streets to stage demonstrations and disrupt security and order. No one ignores either the magnitude of the harm that has been done to the workers and employers as a result of the incitement to stage strikes and the people's being forced to carry them out.

The recent regrettable events were the result of these organizations' stands, forcing some municipalities to boycott the Civilian Administration through their terrorist methods. What is the cause for all this? Is it not because the organizations know that the Civilian Administration was established to replace military rule, to alleviate some of the burdens shouldered by their kinfolk and to gradually enable the people to run their own affairs? It is not surprising that the terrorist organizations are displeased with these new regulations. It is also not surprising that they started inveighing against them from the very first moment. What is surprising, however, is that there are some in the territories who listen to the organizations, take orders from them and do not oppose them while being well aware that these stands contradict the interests of their people living in the territories.

Despite the fact that the organizations use terrorism and sabotage to impose their ideas and stands, the real interest of the citizens living in the territories lies in securing a good, stable, calm life for the citizens in the territories and in providing the necessary circumstances that guarantee a solution to safeguard the dignity, security and stability of all.

EAST JERUSALEM PRESS COMMENTS ON WEST BANK

TA221610 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1550 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Al-Birah, 22 Mar -- The east Jerusalem papers today dedicated their editorials to events in the West Bank.

AL-QUDS says that a collective resignation of the mayors is out of the question at this time since this is the target at which the Israeli authrities are now aiming. The paper adds that the absence of the Palestinians elected by the West Bank inhabitants may lead to a severing of the ties between them and the citizens.

Al-FAJR says that all the current events erupted against the background of the West Bank residents' opposition to the Civilian Administration. The paper claims that all the residents view themselves in confrontation with a situation the end of which is to declare the legality of the occupation and to turn it from a temporary to a normal situation.

ASH-SHA'B, which is known for its support of the PLO, writes that due to censorship the Arab papers are compelled to use the Hebrew radio broadcasts and Hebrew press as their source for reports on events in the West Bank. The paper says that the Israeli authorities accuse the east Jerusalem Arabic press of incitement. However, according to the paper, this charge should be attributed to the Israeli communications media which publish everything and "we copy them."

SOURCES CONCERNED OVER AUTONOMY TALKS DISPUTF

TA220728 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] Government sources last night expressed fear that the dispute with Egypt over holding the autonomy talks in Jerusalem might develop into an extended cut in political contacts over this issue. This follows reports that Egypt will not dispatch to Israel the expert delegation which was to have begun autonomy deliberations yesterday. The autonomy talks were suspended in May 1980 and the cut continued until August 1981, but the talks have since resumed and have been conducted intermittently in Israel and Egypt at the expert and ministerial levels. In the latest round of talks held between experts from both countries, the Israeli representatives made it clear that the next round, which was scheduled to have opened in Israel yesterday, was to be held in Jerusalem. The Egyptians objected and the issue was raised during Egyptian Foreign Minister General 'Ali's visit here last week.

The prime minister informed General 'Ali that unless there is Egyptian readiness to conduct the autonomy talks in Jerusalem the negotiations would not be resumed and this prompted U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis to meet at the end of last week with Interior Minister Yosef Burg and ask for clarifications of the Israeli position. He argued that Israel was presenting a new position -- the demand that the talks be held in Jerusalem -- and that since this was not coordinated with the United States, the situation has consequently become more complicated. He warned of the danger that the dispute over the venue might lead the autonomy negotiations into a prolonged stalemate.

The meeting between Lewis and Burg was preceded by other U.S. attempts to transfer the locale of the expert-level talks (said to have begun yesterday) from Israel to the United States for a variety of reasons, most of which highlighted personal difficulties experienced by the members of the U.S. delegation to the talks who are now confined to their country. Israel rejected this U.S. initiative and raised its own reasons for the need to have the Israeli officials present in Jerusalem.

The autonomy negotiations were discussed yesterday at the Cabinet session against the background of Cairo's refusal to send the delegation for talks in Jerusalem. Interior Minister Yosef Burg reported to the ministers on his converstaions with Ambassador Lewis. During the Cabinet session, the prime minister emphasized that the talks could be held in the three capitals: Jerusalem, Cairo and Washington. Minister Ari'el Sharon said that it was now Jerusalem's turn to host the negotiations delegations. Minister Burg queried the change in the Israeli position, seeing that Israel had previously accepted other cities as the venue for the talks, and the prime minister replied that Israel cannot accept the boycott Egypt has been imposing on Jerusalem. Mr Begin recalled President Mubarak's refusal to visit Jerusalem and noted that the Egyptians are making their attitude toward Israel's status in Jerusalem resemble a boycott. The defense minister ruled that if the Egyptians wanted to conduct the autonomy negotiations in Jerusalem, Israel would be readily prepared for this. But if they refuse, no negotiations on this issue will be held.

Before the crisis over the site for holding the talks erupted the two countries had set a timetable for the neogtiations involving four meetings -- in Israel and Egypt -- which was supposed to extend until this June. During the meeting, the defense minister said that Israel will not be in any position of inferiority after the withdrawal from the Sinai. If the Egyptians should not wish to resume the autonomy talks, Israel will continue its settlement drive in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. He added that if Egypt should deviate from the Camp David accords Israeli law could be applied to Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that there is marked confusion in Egypt, which makes it essential for Israel to remain steadfast in insisting that its justified positions be adhered to.

ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETS

TA222010 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The joint Egyptian-Israeli military committee stipulated today a final timetable for the handing over of the Sinai Desert area to Egypt. The committee decided that Egypt would receive from Israel a loan of technical equipment to remain in the settlements, and it will allow its dismantling and its transfer to Israel after the withdrawal. The joint committee met at the Ne'ot Midbar Hotel in Beersheba. The Egyptian delegation is headed by Admiral Hamad Muhsin and the Israeli delegation is headed by Brig Gen Dov Si'on.

NISIM SAYS ARBITRATION ON TABAH BORDER POSSIBLE

TA230640 Jerusalem POST in English 23 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[By diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Text] Israel is ready to accept arbitration on the question of sovereignty over Tabah Beach if negotiations with Egypt fail to produce agreement, Justice Minister Moshe Nisim said in an interview yesterday. Nisim was speaking on the eve of the meeting today between Premier Menahem Begin and President Husni Mubarak's special envoy, Usamah al-Baz, which is expected to deal with the Tabah dispute.

Both countries claim sovereignty over the square kilometre of seashore just south of Elat. The U.S., it is realibly understood, is not convinced by Israel's claim, which is based on maps and papers going back to 1906.

Nisim was eager to clarify Israel's position following what he termed "confused" media reports here that Israel "rejects international arbitration." What Israel rejects, Nisim said, is the idea of arbitration by international bodies such as the International Court of Justice or the UN. Israel believes it may not get a fair hearing in such forums. Egypt had not actually proposed arbitration by an international body, Nisim acknowledged -- and Israel hoped it would not.

But if the negotiations between Israel and Egypt over sovereignty fail, and Egypt proposes that they go to neutral and mutually agreed conciliation or arbitration -- then Israel can hardly refuse, for this is precisely the process of settling disputes set up in the peace treaty.

Article VII reads: "Disputes...shall be resolved by negotiation. Any such disputes which cannot be settled by negotiation shall be resolved by conciliation or submitted to arbitration."

Nisim and other government sources recalled yesterday that during the treaty negotiations in 1978-9, Egypt suggested -- and Israel vigorously rejected -- a reference to "international arbitration" or specifically to the International Court of Justice. As to which process should come first, conciliation or arbitration Israel's interpretation is that conciliation should be tried first, and only if that fails, then arbitration. (A conciliator makes recommendations; an arbitrator hands down a binding ruling which both sides have undertaken in advance to accept.)

The Israeli proposal on Tabah which Begin and Al-Baz will discuss this morning is believed to provide that the area would remain a sort of buffer zone after April 26, while the two sides continue to negotiate over its sovereignty. Israel would be able to continue operating the hotel and holiday village at Tabah, without restriction pending the final settlement of the dispute.

Joshua Brilliant adds: Israel yesterday suggested that only one gate be opened in the fence which will separate the Gaza Strip town of Rafah after April 25, a well-informed source told the Jerusalem POST yesterday. The proposed gate will serve Rafah residents only and will be separate from the international crossing point which is to be moved to that area from Ne'ot Sinai.

The Israeli suggestion was made at the opening of five days of talks of the joint military committee which is meeting at the Desert Inn in Beersheba. The Israeli source said the proposal conformed with the Egyptian desire to restrict the number of people crossing between the town's two sectors. But the Egyptian delegation, headed by Admiral Hamdi Muhsin, asked for time to study it. The IDF delegation, headed by Brig Gen Dov Si'on also suggested that residents permitted to cross at the proposed gate be given special cards.

IDF EVACUATES SQUATTERS FROM HAZAR HADAR

TA191333 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] This morning IDF troops completed the evacuation of antiwithdrawal squatters from Hazar Hadar and have arrested six adults who, according to IDF soldiers, led the group of youths who arrived on the site. Thirty-five youths were evacuated from the dunes near Hazar Hadar. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that the soldiers were forced to drag the youths to the trucks. The youths are currently being transferred to a police station.

MOSHAV PERI'EL DECLARED CLOSED MILITARY AREA

TA221855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] The Yamit District IDF commander this evening declared Moshav Peri'el a closed military area. The step came after local settlers caused a suspension in the dismantling of houses and hothouses in the moshav and expelled the 15 laborers who had worked there on behalf of the Jewish Agency. The IDF commander in the district announced that should the settlers attempt to disrupt the work again tomorrow, the IDF will prevent them from doing this. One settler was detained for interrogation.

ISRAELI DRUZE URGE GOLAN DRUZE TO ACCEPT ID CARDS

TA200843 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Four Israeli Druze leaders, who visited the Golan Heights yesterday, called on the Druze there to accept Israeli identity cards. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar has learned that they told the Druze in the Golan Heights that there is no religious ban against accepting the identity cards, and that the cards they will be issued are similar to the ones the Druze in Israel receive. They stressed that they would not be made to do compulsory military service, and urged the Druze on the Golan Heights to reconcile themselves to the Golan Law, since Israel will not agree to rescind it.

DRUZE YOUTHS BURN OFFICE BUILDING 18 MAR

TA211355 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Mar 82 p 3

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] For the first time since 1967, Druze on the Golan Heights have adopted violent measures against Israeli authorities. On the night of 18 March Druze youths from the village of 'Ayn Qunyah broke into the office of the local council, sprayed the place with some sort of fuel and set it on fire, causing serious damage. The youths also set tires on fire in the street adjacent to the council building.

An IDF patrol extinguished the blaze and launched an investigation to locate the arsonists. Three youths from 'Ayn Qunyah were arrested. The fire in the council building was apparently intended to protest the continuing blockade imposed on the Druze villages by the IDF and to settle accounts with the 'Ayn Qunyah Council which continues to operate in spite of the general strike, according to order issued by the head of the local council, Ha'il Daibus.

GOLAN DRUZE REJECT IDENTITY CARDS AGAIN

TA230544 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Participants in rallies in all Golan Druze villages yesterday rejected again the government's intention to compel the Druze to carry Israeli identity cards. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar learned this this morning from the spokesman of the Committee for Solidarity with the Golan Druze. He added that the participants in the rallies authorized the spiritual leader on the Golan, Shaykh Salman Tahir, to act as their representative in the talks with the Israeli Druze leaders which will resume near the village of Mas'adah today. The delegation of the Israeli Druze includes both religious and nonreligious leaders headed by Shaykh Amin Tarif, while the delegation of the Golan Druze includes religious leaders only.

Yesterday the Israeli Druze leaders visited 2 of the 12 Golan Druze administrative detainees.

IDF SPOKESMAN DENIES ACTIVITY IN LEBANON 22 MAR

TA231012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] In southern Lebanon yesterday automatic weapons were fired in the direction of helicopters flying in the regions of the Litani and Tyre. UNIFIL officers told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that they could not identify the helicopters. The IDF spokesman says there was no IDF helicopter activity in southern Lebanon yesterday.

SOVIET EXPERTS REPORTEDLY IN S. LEBANON

TA191811 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] The Phalangist military radio station, the Voice of Free Lebanon, reported this evening that a delegation of Soviet military experts has spent the last few days in the Beaufort Castle in southern Lebanon to supervise the positioning of observation points for Syrian Army personnel stationed there and the improvement of the terrorists' artillery positions in the castle. Our correspondent Mikha'el Gurdus comments that so far this report has not been confirmed by any other source.

POLL CONDUCTED ON ATTITUDES TO YAMIT EVACUATION

TA191416 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Mar 82 p 1

[Public opinion poll]

[Text] The majority of the public thinks that the method of evacuating the Yamit District shows restraint and national maturity and only a minority fears the danger of a tratricidal' war. This is the result of a public opinion poll conducted during the second week of March. The poll, which involved 1,197 interviewees representing the adult Jewish population, except for kibbutzim residents, was commissioned by YEDI'OT AHARONOT and carried out by the Dahah Research Institute run by Dr Mina Tzemah.

This question was asked: Some claim that the way of evacuating the Yamit District, the behavior of the IDF and the Movement To Stop the Sinai Withdrawal is leading to a fraticidal war. Others believe that the conduct of both parties indicates restraint and national maturity. What is your opinion?

Brothers' War	Restraint and Maturity	No Opinion
31.1 0/0	51.5 0/0	17.4 0/0

The following question was also asked in the poll: Foreign statesmen such as Mitterrand argue that there is no contradiction between real friendship to Israel and recognition of Palestinians' rights. Do you agree with this view?

Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
35.3 0/0	59.6 0/0	5.1 0/0

POLL SHOWS INCREASE IN SHARON'S POPULARITY

TA211414 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Mar 82 p 3

[Pori poll]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's firm actions to evacuate the Yamit District have increased his public popularity, which is again greater than that enjoyed by the prime minister. This emerges from a nationwide public opinion poll conducted by the Pori Institute last week at the request of HA'ARETZ. The proportion of those people pleased with Sharon's performance as defense minister has risen to 57 percent, compared to 49.9 percent who were satisfied with him in February 1982 -- a 7 percent increase. The proportion of those pleased with Menahem Begin's performance as prime minister has remained unchanged since February: It now stands at 51.1 percent compared to 51 percent in February.

Pollster Refa'el Gil, the director of the Pori Institute, nevertheless notes that the number of those who are currently pleased with Sharon as defense minister (57 percent) is still lower than in December 1981 when his popularity rating stood at 61.6 percent. The poll was conducted on a representative sample of 1,200 men and women who were interviewed in the privacy of their homes throughout Israel.

MA'ARIV REPORTS POLL ON MINISTERS' POPULARITY

TA211422 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Mar 82 p 16

[Hanokh Smith public opinion poll]

[Excerpts] The most interesting finding in a February poll conducted by the "Smith Institute" is the gap, in the public's opinion, about the success of the leading ministers in the coalition and about the government's success in the key areas of its policy. The question was: "In your opinion, do the ministers discharge their duties in a good or bad manner?"

Following are the figures of those who replied that the ministers discharged their duties in a good or a very good manner: Prime Minister Menahem Begin -- 58 percent; Finance Minister Yorma Aridor -- 42 percent; Housing and Construction Minister David Levi -- 51 percent; Foreign Minister Yiyzhaq Shamir -- 54 percent; Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon -- 61 percent; Agriculture Minister Simha Ehrlich -- 18 percent; Education Minister Zvulun Hammer -- 68 percent.

The poll shows that 58 percent of the population believes that Prime Minister Begin is doing a good job. Those people who followed "Smith Institute" polls in the past may remember that prior to the election campaign in 1981 Begin's popularity had dropped to 40 percent. Therefore, it seems that Begin is maintaining a high level of popularity 7 months after the elections.

Other ministers who received especially high marks were Ari'el Sharon and Zvulun Hammer. Some 61 percent of the voters gave Defense Minister Sharon high marks for his performance. 'Ezer Weizman received similar marks when he was very popular during the time he served as defense minister. In theprevious government, Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon at most received 37 percent of the public's favor. His popularity rose gradually along with the rise in prestige of the settlement police in Judaea and Samaria.

Zvulun Hammer, who has always been a relatively popular minister, has reached a new peak of 67 percent. Two-thirds of the public believe he is doing a good job as the education minister.

The public's support for Yitzhaq Shamir -- 54 percent -- indicates a fundamental change in the public's attitude toward him. One should bear in mind that in June 1981, prior to the elections, the public ranked Shamir very low. Now it appears that his public standing has improved considerably.

The contrast in the popularity of the ministers and the government's policy is particularly outstanding in the sphere of foreign policy. Begin and Shamir play key roles in the determination and implementation of foreign policies. As noted, an absolute majority believes that the two men do a good job, whereas 33 percent believe that the government succeeds -- or more or less succeeds -- in its foreign policy.

Regardless of the public's satisfaction with the performance of the ministers, it is clear that the coalition would have been very vulnerable in many socioeconomic spheres. The question posed was "which of the following socioeconomic problems do you believe the government has or has not handled successfully?" Following are the results of those who replied that the government has been successful or more or less successful: tax collection -- 53 percent; education -- 52 percent; improvement of the slums -- 38 percent; handling of the needy -- 28 percent; housing young married couples and people on welfare -- 29 percent; handling of unemployment -- 28 percent; handling of inflation -- 27 percent; reducing the socioeconomic gap -- 26 percent; handling of crime, drugs and hooliganism -- 26 percent; handling problem of aliya and emigration -- 15 percent.

BEGIN ANALYZES HISTORY OF ARLOSOROFF MURDER CASE

TA190730 Jerusalem POST in English 19 Mar 82 p 5

[Article by Menahem Begin: "Anatomy of Incitement"]

[Text] In an unsigned editorial column, the HA'ARETZ daily charges that the inquiry commission to be appointed by the president of the Supreme Court to examine the renewed accusations alleging that Avraham Stavsky and Tzvi Rosenblatt -- or one of them -- murdered Hayim Arlosoroff, is, in fact, "a commission for incitement."

This definition in no way surprises me, considering that it is featured on the pages of HA'ARETZ. I recall that this is the paper which almost 60 years ago informed its readers that Ze'ev Jabotinsky was about to return to Eretz Yisra'el, give up his Zionist activities and contract for "a fat salary" (in the employment of the "Yehuda" insurance company).

Since the publication of that libel and to this very day, anyone and anything associated with the Jabotinsky movement is abhorrent to the HA'ARETZ editorial board. And since my assuming office as prime minister in June 1977, I have had the honour of filling whole pages of HA'ARETZ. Usually, the material printed reflects a conceit steeped in ignorance, unprovoked hatred, public abuse, partial or total distortion and, most of all, verbal violence. What a tradition. However, on this Shabbat eve, I wish to closely examine the real meaning of the charge, incitement.

Almost five years have passed since my assumption of office as prime minister, for four-and-a-half years it never entered my mind to propose to the Cabinet that it decide on the establishment of an inquiry commission to deal with the horrendous affair of the murder of Hayim Arlosoroff of blessed memory, and the attendant blood libel hurled at the Jabotinsky movement.

True, some time ago, one of my friends asked me why I don't set up an inquiry commission on the matter. He reminded me that in 1956 I had called for such a commission in the wake of the famous statement by the late Yehuda Arzi-Tennenbaum before a B'nai B'rith audience to whom he presented documentation and affirmed that Avraham Stavsky was totally innocent. My reply to him was a borrowed quotation. I reminded my friend of the words of Winston Churchill who, upon being appointed prime minister, was called upon to investigate the appeasement period, Munich, etc. In response, Churchill said: If the present quarrels with the past, we will not be able to care for the future.

I abided by that principle and I would have continued to do so with regard to all past affairs, including the Arlosoroff murder and its accompanying blood libel. But something had happened. The Arzi-Tennenbaum revelations, which were then very much in the "present tense," induced me to raise before the Knesset the demand for the establishment of an inquiry commission composed of three judges, "to examine the circumstances and the accusations with regard to the murder of Hayim Arlosoroff on the Tel Aviv beach on June 16, 1933."

In those days -- 1956 -- there was as yet no legislation on inquiry commissions. The law which was eventually enacted came into being thanks to the initiative of the minister of justice, Ya'aqov Shimshon Shapira. I thus had no other recourse at the time but to seek the decision of the Knesset or even to obtain special legislation. Since the promulgation in 1968 of the Inquiry Commission Law, there is no further need to bring matters of this kind to legislature. The Cabinet is authorized and competent to decide on the establishment of an inquiry commission and, if decided upon, the chief justice is required, by law, to appoint "the chairman of the commission and its other members."

What has actually happened now? In these very days -- in 1982 -- a book has been published and is almost certainly being distributed among thousands of people (I, by the way, am inevitably contributing and will continue to contribute to its distribution, and in it the readers read: "Berl Repetur, who was called to Avigur's death-bed a few days before he passed away, heard from his lips various regrets for which he repented during his latter years; but not about his role and opinions concerning the Arlosoroff murder affair. His last words were almost a testimony of his deep and unequivocal conviction of Stavsky's and Rosenblatt's guilt. This is what he said to Repetur: "I want you to know that I am absolutely convinced they murdered Arlosoroff...before I die I want you to know this."

I wish therefore, to put a question for all to hear: How many people, in city and in town, in moshav and kibbutz, will place absolute trust in this "testament" of Sha'ul Avigur -- a man who was a leader of MAPAI, a leader of the Hagana, an organizer of the illegal 'Aliya, the eminence grise of David Ben-Gurion and Moshe Sharett? Whatever our opinion of Sha'ul Avigur may be, it is common knowledge that during his lifetime he enjoyed -- as he certainly does after his death -- a high moral stature within the camp which calls itself the Labour movement.

In light of the view expressed in the HA'ARETZ editorial I ask, is there not contained in the above published document a call to incitement? There we read that a man of the stature of Sha'ul Avigur categorically stated that Avraham Stavsky and Tzvi Rosenblatt murdered Hayim Arlosoroff. What must be the conclusion drawn by any reasonable member of the Mifleget Poalei Eretz Israel [MAPAI] or Mifleget Poalim Hameuhedit [MAPAM] or a member of Ihud Hakibbutzim Vehakevutzot or Hakibbutz Ha'artzi or Hatenu'a Hakibbutzit Hame'uhedet? Surely, most or almost all will accept the view of Sha'ul Avigur. This being so, they will think to themselves, and even say so out loud, that at the helm of the State of Israel there presently stand men with the blood of Hayim Arlosoroff on their heads. The prime minister of Israel, they will say, comes from the camp of murderers. They killed an illustrious leader and, in so doing, weakened our strength for a generation and more. This is horrifying; a prime minister and Cabinet members with a record of political assassination of a leader of a rival party.

As I understand it, it is quite permissible, according to the esteemed members of the HA'ARETZ editorial board, to generate the worst possible incitement so long as it is directed against the disciples of Ze'ev Jabotinsky; but it is prohibited -- to investigate the truth. David Ben-Gurion would call such morality: "Hottentot." For once I would agree with him.

Again, in these very days, in 1982, yet another document is published: "I do not believe your father had a hand in this murder, but I do know who committed the murder ...and how do I know? By the fact that Arlosoroff's wife who was strolling with him on that night... saw the man who shot Arlosoroff and I have no reason not to believe her, because I know her, and she was on the spot and saw the gunman and I have no cause to doubt her truthfulness."

The words are extracted from Ben-Gurion's letter to Yosef Ahime'ir, the son of Dr Abba Ahime'ir, the "third man" accused. I read them for the first time in my life in the book, The Arlosoroff Murder. I had previously known nothing of the letter or of its contents. But I am not alone in having read this categorical statement. Which takes me back to the cities of moshavim and kibbutzim: Very, very many of their inhabitants will read these words and what must their conclusion be?

Every intelligent person in Israel knows that Sima Arlosoroff identified the gunman, that is to say, pointed her finger at Tzvi Rosenblatt, who was "the small one" (her term -- MB) who fired the fatal bullet at her husband whilst "the big one," Avraham Stavsky, shone his torchlight on the couple and asked: "What's the time? ("Kama hasha'a?")

David Ben-Gurion declares that he knows who the murderer was -- the man whom Mrs Sima Arlosoroff identified as the gunman. In simple words, we all read categorically: Rosenblatt murdered Arlosoroff. Who pronounced those words? It was David Ben-Gurion who spoke. For us and for me he was a political adversary for two generations: a tough adversary. I always expressed the opinion, and I repeat it now, that David Ben-Gurion has much to his credit and he also erred. His achievements do not nullify his failures. Neither do his failures cancel his historic achievements.

There are many in the country who believe or who claim that Ben-Gurion was a man only of achievements. They have a right to that opinion. But I, too, have the right to express my opinion, as I have. All will concur that if in the camp of his adversaries it is acknowledged that Ben-Gurion was a man of historic accomplishments, how much more so would this view be held by those who were his followers. For them he is even the single personality of his times. And it is this name Ben-Gurion who says that Tzvi Rosenblatt, with his own hands and his own pistol, put an end to Arlosoroff's life.

In his letter to Yosef Ahim'eir, Ben-Gurion does not identify "the one who held the torchlight"; he suffices with the identity of the gunman. But if he does not question the truthfulness, as he puts it, of Hayim Arlosoroff's wife with respect to the gunman, one can deduce that he also trusts her judgement of identification in toto, namely, that it was Avraham Stavsky who held that torchlight, asked: "Kama hasha'a?" and participated in the murder.

So, again, I ask the preachers of the HA'ARETZ editorial board, is that letter not incitement? I was the friend, neighbour and associate of Avraham Stavsky. He is alive in my memory still. He was a fine human being, not the caricature described and presented by Shabtay Tevet in his book. Tevet never even saw him. I knew Avraham Stavsky from the days of our common boyhood. True, he had no formal education (MAPAI leaders should know something about that). But he had a most unusual natural intelligence.

Two days after Hayim Arlosoroff was gunned down, Avraham Stavsky was arrested as a suspect for the murder of that outstanding man who conceived, as testified to by the letter to Hayim Weizmann, the idea of armed revolt against British rule. A few days later I brought Avraham Stavsky's mother to see Ze'ev Jabotinsky. To this day her appeal and cry ring in my ears: "Mr Jabotinsky, save my child." Ze'ev Jabotinsky kissed her hand. Tears flowed from the mother's eyes. Those tears will never be forgotten.

So, too, will I never forget the tears of another mother -- my own. On one of those hot summer days in 1933, whilst I was in my parents home vacationing from studies, my mother returned from shopping and said to me: "Neighbors have told me, your son is a good man but why does he associate with murderers? My mother cried. I comforted her, saying: "Never mind. You know that Abrasha (Stavsky) murdered no one. The truth will come out."

It is true that throughout all of these past 49 years that blood libel has been an open wound in my heart. But for these past four-and-a-half years I have acted in accordance with Churchill's maxim. Now, with the publication of David Ben-Gurion's words, how should I, we, the Government of Israel, act? According to the HA'ARETZ view, it is quite permissible to pronounce in print that two friends of the prime minister murdered Arlosoroff -- and by the thinking habits of the Labour camp those words are proclaimed from on high. Only one thing is absolutely prohibited: to investigate the truth.

I do not deny that instead of the words "Hottentot morality" I have a strong inner wish to repeat the verse of Isaiah: "We should have been as Sodom and we should have been like unto Gomorrah." There are those who recommend to us that we turn to the historians. I wouldn't know who they are: We no longer have the Graetzes, the Dubnows and the Klausners. I do know those who call themselves historians today. Do we have to turn to one or to all of them?

I won't limit myself to the question: I will explain the issue. Professor 'Anita Shapira wrote a wonderful book on Berl Katznelson. In the second volume of her book she writes that whilst it is true that in 1933 Berl Katznelson believed that Avraham Stavsky and Tzvi Rosenblatt murdered Hayim Arlosoroff, he changed his mind in 1934. Professor 'Anita Shapira assumes that Berl Katznelson's change of mind was caused by the false testimony of Rivka Reigin, who charged that Tzvi Rosenblatt murdered Arlosoroff. It became clear, particularly to Police Officer Bekhor Shitrit, that the esteemed lady was brazenly lying. He, therefore, insisted forthwith from all concerned that she not be allowed to mount the witness stand. And, indeed, she didn't. Rivka Reigin told her stories to the leaders of MAPAI, but she was not allowed to appear in court and MAPAI saw to it that she return to Rumania. The author of the book, "Berl," writes, therefore, that the leader of MAPAI, Dov Katznelson, "deduced comparisons from Rivka Reigin's testimony with respect to other witnesses."

The author of "The Arlosoroff Murder", Mr Shabtay Tevet, has twice appeared on radio. I heard the second part of his talk. He made it sound as if it counted for nothing, that section of Professor 'Anita Shapira's book dealing with the changed viewpoint of Berl Katznelson in 1934 concerning the murder trial. He repeatedly argued that Professor 'Anita Shapira brings no documented proof of her claim. Yet she is the one who, it is universally acknowledged, conducted the most thorough research into the life and work of Berl Katznelson. The conclusion regarding professors and historians is clear.

The editors and correspondents of HA'ARETZ, the leaders of the Labor Party and MAPAM, the spokesman of what is known as historic MAPAI -- if they still exist -- all of them were shaken. Heaven help us, the Cabinet has decided to establish an inquiry commission in accordance with the law and the authority vested in it to examine the charges and accusations just published in these very days, alleging that Avraham Stavsky and Tzvi Rosenblatt murdered Hayim Arlosoroff.

How dare they? There is a moral obligation not to investigate the truth, not to examine these present-day accusations, as to whether they be true of false. Let them, those accusations, be left to float in the air of our children and grandchildren. Those people have again to "believe" that the revisionists murdered Arlosoroff. For sure, is no incitement in that. It is self-understood. And the members of the Jabotinsky ment are required, with bent heads and broken hearts, to accept those accusations, watch them spread, penetrate, become accepted -- and do nothing.

I do not recognize such a morality and I never shall. I repeat my question, which I direct to all the libelmongers and to all those who attacked the decision of the governmen You have libelled and now you wish also to prevent an investigation?

An inquiry commission will be established in accordance with the laws of Israel. I do not know how long the commission will work. Perhaps its examination will take weeks, perhaps months and perhaps even years. I do not know what its composition will be. That will be determined by the chief justice. I am not even sure if I will be here to read its findings. Of one thing I am certain: My son and my granddaughter, who to this day learns from the school textbook by Dr Horowitz that "inevitably suspicion fell on the revisionists" (my emphasis, M.B.) and, in parenthesis, "Sima Arlosoroff identified them!" (Note exclamation mark -- M.B.) -- my son and my granddaughter will read the findings of the inquiry commission.

I have no idea what they will be. But one thing I do know: In face of the renewed accusations against my two colleagues and against the whole movement through which I have served the Jewish people for 53 years, it was imperative to bring about the establishment of the inquiry commission. I will flinch before no one, not even before the clowns of whatever variety. To them I respond in the language of Bialik -- scorned be the scoffers when, to use the words and meaning of the law concerned, the issue is serious and of paramoung public significance at the time of examination. No empty threats will deter me, nor will stupidities or barbed curses or cheap jokes. What we do is a moral duty and we shall carry it out.

ALGERIA

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH SAO TOME

LD202340 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] The already exemplary cooperation between Algeria and Sao Tome and Principe has just been further strengthened by the signing of three agreements resulting in the establishment of a joint committee. The agreements were signed on the occasion of the visit to Algeria of the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of Sao Tome and Principe.

Mme Maria do Nascimento was received today by the head of state in the presence of the Algerian minister of foreign affairs and the Algerian ambassador in Sao Tome and Principe. The agreements cover scientific-technical cooperation, the establishment of a joint committee [words indistinct] and were signed at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. Earlier, the minister from Sao Tome and Principe met with the Algerian minister of posts and telecommunications.

Visiting Minister Departs

LD212054 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Maria do Nascimento, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, left Algiers this afternoon for Tripoli after an official 5-day visit to our country.

BRIEFS

PROTOCOL WITH CHAD -- Algiers, 17 Mar (APS) -- Messrs Abdelhak Berarhi, CC member, minister of teaching and scientific research, and Acheikh ibn Omman, minister of national education, signed yesterday an Algerian-Chadian protocol of agreement in the field of education, training, high teaching and scientific research. This protocol of agreement defined the new bases of the Algerian-Chadian cooperation. This document which gives the prime importance to high teaching fixed the sectors of the Algerian-Chadian cooperation in the field of education, teaching, culture, youth and sports. On another turn, President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, FLN party secretary general, audienced yesterday in Algiers Mr Adoum Togoi, minister of defense of the Chad Government who arrived yesterday in Algiers so as to hand over a message from Mr Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Government of the National Transitory Union of Chad. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1516 GMT 17 Mar 82 LD]

LIBYA

DISPUTES, CONFLICT AMONG SAUDI PRINCES INCREASE

LD221858 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] According to reports reaching Beirut, disputes and conflicts among the princes of the Saudi royal family are on the increase and are no longer a secret. The reports say Prince Fahd's travels abroad and his over-20-day absence from Saudi Arabia is a clear sign of such conflicts.

According to one report, Prince Fahd and his brother, Prince Salman, the governor of Riyadh, have been launching fierce attacks against the minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, Ahmad Zaki Yamani, and trying to replace him with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. At that point, Prince Fahd would assume the Foreign Ministry portfolio now occupied by Prince Sa'ud.

According to the reports, the conflict among the princes of the Saudi family has reached illogical proportions and is affected by personal whims. Other reports speak of the winds of revolution sweeping the area and say these winds and the changes that have followed the fall of many of the pro-U.S. regimes have led to a growing spirit of rebellion among the youth of the Arabian Peninsula against the princes and those in power there. This has prompted the princes to take measures at home to absorb the rage of the youth and their pan-Arab and Islamic activities.

AL-'UBAYDI VISITS MALTA; DISPUTE TO GO TO HAGUE

LD230044 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Following the brother commander of the revolution's stopover in Malta en route to the jamahiriyah from Austria and his meeting with Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff and members of his government when agreement was reached on the settlement of all pending issues between the jamahiriyah and Malta, Brother Abd al Ati-al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, paid a visit to Malta during the last 2 days. He held talks with Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff and members of his government. Agreement was reached during the talks on a number of issues including an agreement to refer the dispute over the continental shelf between the two countries to the International Court of Justice.

AL-'UBAYDI MEETS SAO TOME FOREIGN MINISTER

LD221954 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, this morning met Mrs Maria de Nascimento, minister of foreign affairs of Sao Tome and Principe. During the meeting, they discussed the strengthening and developing of bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries and issues of mutual interest.

MAURITANIA

SAHARA HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT TO BE HELD 27 MAR

AB221210 Paris AFP in French 0749 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Nouakchott, 22 Mar (AFP) -- A meeting of foreign ministers and experts from Saharan states -- Algeria, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad -- aimed at preparing the sixth heads of state summit scheduled for 27 March opens on Monday in Nouakchott.

Created in the beginning to be an instrument of consultation among countries which consider "the Sahara -- this interior sea -- a factor of unity" among the peoples of the region, the conference of Saharan states has, since the Bamako summit, become an institutional framework of collaboration.

The sixth summit of Nouakchott should clarify the implementation of the program of action adopted in March 1980 in Bamako, Mali. This program envisaged, among other things, the creation of five specialized commissions "to promote the development, independence and social progress of participating countries by coordination of their efforts." These commissions deal with agriculture, water resources, stockbreeding, mines, industry, energy, transport, telecommunications, commerce, finances, culture, information and social questions.

According to informed sources, only 30 percent of this program was implemented and most of the projects executed concern cultural cooperation, mainly the organization of a film festival of Saharan countries in Tamanrasset, Algeria; a seminar on copyright in Algiers; and the revival of the proposed creation of a center for research and Saharan studies in Djanet, Algeria. Most of the projects adopted were not implemented by the other member states for lack of money.

Political questions also will be tackled by this summit and the Western Sahara problem, which preoccupies all the member countries, will undoubtedly be discussed during the debates. Most of the member countries of the conference of Saharan states favor a solution to the Saharan conflict based on the right of the Saharan people to self-determination, observers recall.

No indication has yet been provided on the number of heads of state who are to take part in this sixth summit of Saharan states.

MOROCCO

TAZI BRIEFS AMBASSADORS ON ATTITUDE TOWARD OAU

LD202258 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Rabat, 20 Mar (MAP) -- Abdelhaz Tazi, Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs, received the ambassadors of Asian, Latin American and North American states to acquaint them with Morocco's attitude toward the comedy witnessed in Addis Ababa last month when the OAU administrative general secretary allowed Algeria's mercenaries to attend the 38th ordinary ministerial conference of that organization, thus exceeding his mandate and encroaching upon the special jurisdictions of the heads of the African states.

He also received the ambassadors of Romania, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR and Yugoslavia and the Polish charge d'affaires. He acquainted the ambassadors of these countries with the latest development at the OAU.

Additionally, the secretary of state for foreign affairs received Yevgeniy Nersesov, Soviet ambassador to Rabat. Their talks dealt with the existing relations between the two countries and the viewpoints of both governments on international and political issues. The Soviet diplomat informed the secretary of state of his government's views regarding setting up special agencies for disarmament at the UN General Secretariat and also the new Soviet proposals about the arms race and preventing a new world war.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI ADDRESSES POPULAR COMMITTEE 21 Mar

JN221009 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Mar (SUNA) -- President Numayri addressed yesterday the closing session of the popular committee assigned to draw out concepts for promoting SSU action.

He praised the committee's efforts and pledged due attention to its recommendation. The president said the committee's recommendations represent a crucial factor in the progress and prosperity of Sudan. He confirmed that the revolution would work for more decentralization. The president said that the Sudanese people do not decline to make use of theories and expertise that do not contradict their traditions and policies.

WESTERN SAHARA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON SAO TOME MINISTER'S VISIT

LD181256 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Haouza, Liberated Territories, 18 Mar (APS) -- A delegation from the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe led by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Maria do Nascimento Amorim, paid an official visit to the SDAR from 14 to 17 March in the context of strengthening relations of friendship, fraternity and militant solidarity between the two countries and the two peoples. The visit was made at the invitation of Saharan Foreign Affairs Minister Ibrahim Hakim.

A joint communique issued on the conclusion of the visit says that the guest delegation was received by Mohamed Abdelaziz, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and secretary general of the Polisario. During this meeting, the two sides discussed the international political situation in general and the political and military situation in the Western Sahara in particular.

The joint communique stresses that Maria do Nascimento Amorim met a number of Saharan officials and held talks covering the present international situation and the situation in the Western Sahara after the SDAR's admission to the OAU. The meetings were also devoted to issues concerning the cordial relations between the two peoples and the strengthening of solidarity between them. The two sides attached great importance to the liberation struggle of the peoples of Namibia, South Africa and Palestine as well as to the situation in Chad, the struggle of the people of El Salvador and the attempts by imperialism to strike at stability in the progressive countries and to oppress the peoples struggling for freedom, justice and progress.

The two sides consider that the SDAR's admission to the OAU creates conditions for the holding of direct negotiations between the Saharan Republic and Morocco in order to reach a peaceful and final settlement of the conflict between them in accordance with the right of the Saharan people to self-determination and independence.

In this respect, the two sides appealed to the international community and the African states to express solidarity with the Saharan people.

The two sides denounced U.S. intervention on the side of the Moroccan forces and the aggressions perpetrated by the racist regime of South Africa, with the support of imperialism, against the frontline states. They expressed their unconditional support for and their solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The two sides also examined the situation in Chad and reaffirmed their absolute support for the Transitional National Unity Government in Chad, which is seeking to secure the national unity of the Chadian people. The two sides expressed their concern over the recent NATO maneuvers in the Caribbean, which threaten the security of the countries of the region, especially to the Republics of Cuba and Nicaragua.

The joint communique also says the foreign minister of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe extended an invitation to the foreign minister of the Western Sahara to visit her country.

KENYA

PRESIDENT DENOUNCES RSA INCURSION INTO ANGOLA

EA191836 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, who is the current chairman of the OAU, has issued a statement on the current situation in the southern part of Africa.

President Moi said that he is greatly concerned over the recent developments in the southern part of our continent. Racist South Africa once again has without provocation invaded the territory of our sister state, the People's Republic of Angola. This invasion is a gross violation of all the international laws and norms governing violations [as heard] between sovereign states.

Kenya vehemently condemns these invasions and demands the immediate withdrawal of all South African forces from Angola. For some time now, the racist regime has made constant incursions into neighboring countries with the aim of destabilizing them and attempting to force them to abandon their support for the liberation forces. The statement said these acts of intimidation are bound to fail.

OAU OFFICIAL BRIEFS MOI ON CHAD MISSION

EA192022 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] The current chairman of the OAU council of ministers, Mr Archie Mogwe, left for home this afternoon after briefing President Moi on the OAU mission to Chad and the discussion the mission had with Chadian leaders.

Speaking to reporters at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport before departure, Mr Mogwe said his mission had come from Chad with the feeling that Chadian people were keen to correct the image created by news media that their government had totally failed to abide with the Nairobi OAU resolution on a cease-fire and holding of elections. He said that the Chadian Government was not refusing to accept the OAU resolution on how to solve the country's crisis but there are certain aspects of it which they find difficult to accept. He said that the Chadian Government did not specify the difficulties.

Mr Mogwe was accompanied during the mission by Kenya's foreign affairs minister, Dr Robert Ouka, and the assistant secretary general of the OAU, Dr Onu.

TANZANIA

TANZANIAN, SOVIET PARLIAMENTARIANS SUPPORT SWAPO

EA191838 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Tanzania and the Soviet Union have called for concerted political and economic pressure by progressive forces in the world to force racist South Africa into accepting a just settlement of the Namibian independence question.

In a communique issued today in Dar es Salaam at the end of a week-long visit to Tanzania by a delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the two countries expressed their full support to the Namibian people under SWAPO's leadership in their struggle against racist South Africa. The Soviet and Tanzanian parliamentarians also stated their resolute support to the just struggle in the world against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism. They also called for the equitable retraction of the lopsided international economic relations.

The Soviet parliamentarians, who arrived in the country last Friday, held several rounds of talks with party and government leaders and visited Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions where they toured small-scale industries, agricultural and other economic projects.

GABON

YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON VISIT 22 MAR

AB221935 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The president of the SFRY, His Excellency Sergej Kraigher, arrived at Leon Mba International Airport this afternoon at 1600 for an official visit at the inivitation of his Gabonese counterpart, President Omar Bongo. The Yugoslav leader was welcomed upon his arrival by President El-Hadj Omar Bongo, accompanied by the prime minister and head of the government, Leon Mebiame; the minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, Martin Bongo and the Yugoslav ambassador to Gabon.

Bongo Welcome Speech

AB222018 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Welcome speech by President Omar Bongo on the arrival of SFRY President Kraigher in Libreville on 22 March -- recorded]

[Text] On behalf of the Gabonese people, the government and the Gabonese Democratic Party, I most cordially welcome you on your first visit to Gabon. By honoring our invitation, you demonstrate your country's interest in us. I will not take much of your time; I simply will say we are very happy to receive you, the successor of the man described as the father of the nonaligned countries, President Tito.

In fact, in 1975, I had the opportunity to pay an official visit to your beautiful country. I believe the talks we will have during your stay in our country will once again make possible not only the strengthening of relations of cooperation existing happily between our two peoples, but especially the consolidation of the Nonaligned Movement. In fact, at a time when Africa is facing several problems and bloody conflicts, I think [words indistinct] the worthy successor of President Tito will be in a position to find ways and means to enable each one of us to remain in his country and that those [words indistinct] imperialism and neocolonialism so that they can find a place in Africa, particularly in Gabon. But, I do not intend to speak here on behalf of Africa. I speak to you particularly on behalf of Gabon. Mr President, I would like to wish you and the delegation accompanying you the most cordial welcome to Gabonese soil.

In conclusion, I would like to express to you, Mr President, our deep feeling in welcoming you. [applause]

RWANDA

TANZANIAN MINISTER ARRIVES ON 5-DAY VISIT

AB191445 Paris AFP in French 1018 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Kigali, 19 Mar (AFP) -- Muhiddin Kimario, Tanzanian home affairs minister, arrived in Kigali late yesterday afternoon on a 5-day visit.

Muhiddin Kimario told the Rwandan press agency on arrival that his visit falls within the framework of the implementation of the resolutions of the Dar es Salaam conference of March 1981. This conference grouped the heads of state of Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda as well as the Kenyan vice president and the Zairian first state commissioner.

Questioned on the proposal to settle Rwandan citizens in Tanzania in order to solve the overpopulation problem in Rwanda, the Tanzanian minister said the leaders presently were studying the problem and those concerned will be informed at the appropriate time.

The minister yesterday evening held discussions with Edouard Karemeraqui, Rwandan minister responsible for the presidency. He will meet President Habyarimana on (?Monday). During the visit, the Tanzanian minister will visit some development projects.

ZAIRE

AZAP PRAISES ACHIEVEMENTS OF ONE-PARTY SYSTEM

AB181133 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0850 GMT 18 Mar 82

[AZAP commentary: "Precious Achievement To Be Safeguarded]

[Text] Kinshasa, 18 Mar (AZAP) -- Zaire, put to fire and blood soon after its accession to national and international sovereignty by the action of multiple political parties on tribal and ethnic bases, today can be proud of having obtained invaluable commodities -- peace and national unity -- under the Mobutu banner.

During a 5-year period, the Zairian people experienced tribulations and secessions, the atrocities of fratricidal wars, the inherent chaos from the dilution of authority. Still fresh in our minds are the relics of the multiparty system -- regionalism, tribalism, clanism -- on whose altar many innocent lives were sacrificed. Today, these evils stand in contrast to the good works of peace in every corner of the country.

The political will of the Zairian people to endow themselves with a single party, that symbolizes national unity, peace and harmony, results from a thorough examination of political realities and of the fact that methods and systems copied from abroad are a failure. Thanks to the institution of a single political party in Zaire, desolation has given way to the joy of life, discord and hatred to harmony and love for the country and the neighbor.

Today, our people are carried away by the irrestible urge to find solutions to the problems we face -- and they are serious -- in the economic and social sectors. Through the diabolic machinations publicly denounced by the head of state on Monday, they see the appearance of disunity and opposition from selfish interests.

Let the founding chairman receive numerous motions of support from all levels of people in the country, especially from those whose origins are Kasai-oriented, who have not yet forgotten the fate which befell them at the approach of independence and afterward. This constitutes the reaffirmation of the desire of our people to pursue the founding chairman's effort, united within the [words indistinct] by a single ideal -- peace, justice and work -- as much as it stresses the challenging character of the behavior of the former parliamentarians and their allies to the people's aspirations.

GUINEA-BISSAU

MINISTER CITES SUMMIT WITH CAPE VERDE PRESIDENT

AB182055 Paris AFP in French 1441 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Lisbon, 18 Mar (AFP) -- A summit meeting between the presidents of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde "aimed at establishing a new type of relations between the two countries" will soon be held, Guinea-Bissau's minister of economic coordination and planning, Vasco Cabral, announced on Thursday in Lisbon.

In an interview granted to the leftist weekly O PONTO, the minister described as "transitional" the divorce between the two states as a result of the 14 November 1980 coup that overthrew President Luis Cabral's regime.

NIGERIA

GHANAIAN ENVOY REQUESTS POLITICAL ASYLUM

AB221755 Lagos NAN in English 1710 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Lagos, 22 March (NAN) -- The Ghanaian high commissioner to Nigeria, Alhaji Youssif Patty, has asked for political asylum in Nigeria.

In a statement in Lagos at the week-end, Alhaji Youssif, who was appointed under the deposed administration of Dr Hilla Limann, said that the seizure of power by Flt.-Lt Jerry Rawlings was a "serious desecration of the Ghanaian Constitution." He wondered what could have prompted the violation of the Constitution so soon after its promulgation, and declared: "If Rawlings was aware that the 1979 Constitution would be unworkable for Ghana, why did he promulgate it."

Alhaji Youssif said that there was a total break-down of military discipline in Ghana. He did not believe that "a government of sergeants and corporals" could help Ghana out of its economic problems when senior officers had failed.

The former high commissioner alleged that soldiers and civilians killed in the coup was about 2,700 with other casualties numbering about 800 people. He said that the coup was carried out with the assistance of Libya and that the "much talked-about food and drugs aid to Ghana is nothing short of arms and ammunitions which Ghanaians will use against one another."

ECONOMIC COUNCIL HOLDS EMERGENCY MEETING

AB221600 Lagos NAN in English 1535 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Lagos, 22 March (NAN) -- The National Economic Council (NEC) met today in Lagos to discuss what the agenda called vital issues that will bring industrial peace to the country.

The emergency meeting, which was presided over by the vice-president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, considered the issue of pay adjustments and fringe benefits in the public sector. Dr Ekwueme, who is also the chairman of the council, noted that the issue deserved a very serious consideration in view of the current stand taken by the relevant trade unions. He pointed out that in as much as efforts should be made to prevent industrial actions, due regard must be paid to the state of the economy especially in this period of oil glut.

The vice-president announced the approval of new producer prices by Mr President, and urged members to give their blessing to the approved prices. On the approval of the revised cost of the petro-chemical projects, Dr Ekwueme said that this was necessary in the light of the implementation procedure specified in Chapter 36 of the current national plan.

The meeting was attended by 13 governors and the deputy governors of Anambra, Kano and Cross River. Also at the meeting were the governor the Central Bank, Mr Ola Vincent, the ministers of finance and national planning, Mr Victor Masi and Mrs Ebun Oyagbola respectively.

HERALD CALLS ARMS DISCOVERIES 'ALARMING'

AB221255 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Press Review]

[Excerpt] The spate of discoveries of arms and ammunition in various parts of the country is the issue discussed by the Nigerian HERALD. Citing the seizure of a large consignment of arms Tuesday by the Kano State police command, the paper says it is alarming. Commending the action of the police as a job well done, the HERALD suggests that the police should come in full of force and dislodge all illegal arms manufacturing depots as a supplement to the efforts of checking the nefarious activities of arms smugglers. It also appeals to members of the public to cooperate with the law enforcing agents in ensuring that Nigeria is rid of undesirable elements.

SENEGAL

EGYPT'S BUTRUS GHALI ARRIVES, COMMENTS ON SDAR

AB230845 Paris AFP in French 0756 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Dakar, 23 Mar (AFP) -- Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed the need to defend African unity and solidarity. He was referring to the problem posed by the SDAR's admission to the OAU ministerial council meeting in Addis Ababa on his arrival in Dakar on Monday.

Ghali also said his country will not take part in the forthcoming OAU summit conference in Tripoli. "What happened in Addis Ababa constitutes a danger for African unity," the Egyptian minister told the press, adding that it is "important that those who believe in African unity should act in concert, exchange their views and try to find solutions -- even if they are temporary -- to maintain African unity and solidarity."

Concerning the Middle East, the minister said he is convinced Israel will withdraw from the Sinai on 25 April. He considers this withdrawal "a diplomatic victory" for Egypt and peace as well as a step toward "a new desire to negotiate in favor of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination."

Ghali, who will leave Dakar tomorrow for Conakry on an official visit, was received on arrival by Moustapha Niasse, Senegalese minister of state for foreign affairs.

OPPOSITION CONDEMNS EXPULSION OF SDAR DELEGATES

AB171336 Paris AFP in French 1257 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Dakar, 17 Mar (AFP) -- "Ande Jef," a Senegalese opposition party (Populist) in a communique sent to the press, "strongly condemns" the Senegalese authorities' expulsion of the delegation from Western Sahara, which came to Dakar to participate in the conference of the African information ministers.

The Senegalese opposition movement says the Senegalese Government, by expelling the Saharan delegation, "violates the OAU Charter as well as internationally accepted regulations on the organization of international meetings."

Finally, it asks the government to recognize the Polisario Front as the sole and unique representative of the Saharan people.

TOGO

PATASSE REPORTEDLY TO BE GRANTED ASYLUM

AB221304 Paris AFP in French 1240 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Lome, 22 Mar (AFP) -- It was learned on Monday from well-informed Togolese circles in Lome that Togo will grant political asylum to Ange Patasse, chairman of the Central African People's Liberation Movement (MLPC), who has been taking refuge in the French Embassy in Bangui following the abortive coup e'etat against President Andre Kolingba's regime on 4 March. The same sources indicated that Patasse may arrive in the Togolese capital on Tuesday or Wednesday.

CAR Foreign Minister Lt Col Jean-Louis Gervil Yambala, who was received in audience on Monday morning by President Gnassingbe Eyadema, refused to make any comment on this matter. However, he stated at the end of his discussions with the Togolese head of state that "it is necessary to find a just and acceptable solution for France and the CAR." "My country," he said, "is awaiting proposals from France. France has always been our partner. We are in contact. I think a solution will be found."

EYADEMA RECEIVES 3-MAN LIBYAN DELEGATION

AB192100 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Head of state Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema this morning granted an audience to a three-man Libyan delegation. The delegation, led by Mr (Khader Seidi), deputy secretary general of the mixed organization for the establishment of Islamic cultural centers, had talks with the president on the proposed construction of an Islamic cultural center in Lome. After the audience, Mr (Khader Seidi) made the following statement to newsmen:

[Begin recording in Arabic fading into French translation] I have just been received by President Eyadema and I thank his excellency for the opportunity offered us to meet one of the greatest African leaders. He has made it possible for Togo to make continuous progress and each time I come here I feel a lot has been achieved in the meantime. Of course, it is not often that one meets President Eyadema personally. His activities in Africa are aimed at progress and freedom. I am the deputy secretary general of the mixed organization in charge of cultural centers representing the Socialist People's Arab Jamahiriyah and the United Arab Emirates. We are now carrying out a project in Lome. If there wasn't a man at the head of the Togolese nation like President Eyadema, such projects would not be sponsored here as frequently as they now are. I want to stress the role of our brothers working at the people's bureau here. They insisted that Togo be among the first countries where such projects are implemented. Of course, I also very much thank the officials who helped us. I pray God help this people achieve further progress under the leadership of a man like President Eyadema. I also pray for him to continue working in the interest of the people of Africa. [end recording]

NAMIBIA

AFP SAYS NAMIBIA-ANGOLA BORDER APPEARS CALM

AB221252 Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Windhoek, Namibia, 22 March (AFP) -- South African and South-West African territorial forces appear to have the situation along the 1,500 km (930 miles) Namibian-Angolan border under control.

But the calm may be only temporary as the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) is rearming with Soviet equipment from its bases in Angola. SWAPO has replaced its fixed radar stations, destroyed in South African raids, with harder-to-find mobile units manned by East Germans, the South African military said.

In any case, terrorist and SWAPO raids have diminished from Angola. "We are still in a better position today than in 1981," South African officers told journalists on an inspection tour from Windhoek to the three main bases spread out over 1,000 km (622 miles) along the border. The trip was organized by South Africa's Information Ministry.

The bases, visited briefly, looked well-organized and well-defended. The troops, 23 percent black Namibians, seemed well-disciplined. Journalists who had visited these camps a year ago said they were being enlarged, with permanent rather than temporary buildings. The South African army and its black reinforcements look to be digging in for a long stay. The "hot spot" on the border, which stretches from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Caprivi Strip in the east, is the Ovamboland in the center.

Here infiltration, terrorism and activity by the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) is the most frequent. "But the local population has renewed confidence today and is more and more ready to give us information," said General Rudolf Badenhorst, commander-in-chief of the operational zone.

General Badenhorst, headquartered at the Oshakati base, said last week's incursion into Angola, called "Super", had been carefully planned using such information. He said 201 PLAN guerrillas were killed in the lighning helicopter raid, for the loss of three South African soldiers among the 45 men, mainly blacks, in the operation, supported by back-up troops.

General Badenhorst, who defined part of his assignment as breaking SWAPO, said his men took no prisoners during the raid. He added that no Zimbabwean weapons had been found, only food supplies. The general confirmed that former SWAPO guerrillas were working with the Namibian territorial forces. He added that the mother of nationalist Namibian leader Sam Nujoma, as well as others in the area, was receiving financial assistance from the Windhoek government.

At the Rundu base, in Kavango in the center of the border, General van Rooyen said all was calm. Since January, 1981, his troops have had contact with SWAPO fighters only five times and claimed about 20 SWAPO dead.

Across the border, guerrillas from UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) of Jonas Savimbi, which is fighting the Luanda regime, hold the Angolan province of Cuando Cubango.

Further east, at the Mpacha base, near Katima Mulilo in the Caprivi Strip, a Colonel Gerrat had the same story to tell. Since August 1978, when SWAPO bombarded Katima Mulilo, killing 10 people and drawing a violent South African counter-offensive against Zambian bases in response, the area has been relatively calm. Col Gerrat said Zambian authorities had "penned up" the SWAPO guerrillas by defining boundaries for them.

But despite these optimistic reports, observers said SWAPO has been re-arming since the South African Protea operation into Angola in August, 1981, killed 1,000 of their men and captured 4,000 tons of equipment and ammunition. But the calm on the border is only a lull in the 15-year-old struggle, which diplomatic efforts have failed to resolve, observers here said. They even wondered whether proposals by the five-nation Western contact group of the United States, Britain, Canada, France and West Germany will bring independence for this vast territory which is now governed by a South African administration.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA-KAUNDA MEETING POSSIBLE 'WITHIN FEW WEEKS'

AB221420 Paris AFP in French 1312 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, 22 Mar (AFP) -- A summit meeting between Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha could take place "within the next few weeks," informed sources in Johannesburg indicated on Monday.

The same sources say the South African Government is determined to seize without delay the invitation extended last week by the Zambian head of state during an interview with a Johannesburg journalist.

An exchange of letters through diplomatic channels between Lusaka and Pretoria should soon take place to arrange the details of this meeting, it was added.

Kaunda proposed Botha meet with him to discuss the "potentially explosive" situation in southern Africa and Namibia, it will be recalled. A commentator of the South African Broadcasting Corporation, which is under the direct control of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, said on Monday morning that it is "probable" that such a meeting will actually take place, observers stress. No venue for this meeting has yet been officially suggested, but observers believe that Botswana, considered by Pretoria as the most moderate of the frontline states, would be acceptable to the two parties.

COMMENTARY VIEWS SWAPO CALL FOR PEACE TALKS

LD221804 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] SWAPO's insistence on what the terrorist movement calls peace talks with South Africa is a thinly disguised veil to try to bring (?some) respect to the movement by implying that SWAPO is involved in a conflict with South Africa.

The South African point of view is that SWAPO can talk to the legal representatives of the political parties in South-West Africa/Namibia about peace or any subject it wants to discuss. Pretoria's attitude is quite simple: The people of South-West Africa/Namibia must decide for themselves.

The official Angolan news agency ANGOP reported over the weekend that SWAPO was eager to hold peace talks with South Africa after a SWAPO terrorist base had been wiped out last week in southern Angola. The ANGOP report contradicted an earlier report that such an operation had never taken place. The operation was operation Super in which 45 soldiers wiped out more than 200 SWAPO terrorists and captured more than (?60) tons of arms and ammunition. Now ANGOP, on behalf of SWAPO, claims that South African troops had attacked a refugee camp near the Angolan border with South-West Africa/ Namibia and not a terrorist camp. In another dispatch, ANGOP quoted sources in Luanda as saying that South African troops had dressed corpses in uniform to make them appear to be SWAPO terrorists. This is not only a claim that is devoid of truth, but totally ridiculous. What would refugees want to do with 60 tons of weapons?

The ANGOP statements make it clear that the Angolan Government has no idea of what is happening inside the country to the north of the South-West Africa/Namibian border. Indications are that the Angolan Government has lost control over the southern part of the country. The solution for SWAPO is a simple one: Talk to the political parties of South-West Africa/Namibia which are governing the territory.

SWAZILAND

KING CLAIMS RSA TERRITORY INHABITED BY SWAZIS

AB211030 Paris AFP in French 0933 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Mbabane, (Swaziland), 21 Mar (AFP) -- King Sobhuza II of Swaziland, before foreign diplomats accredited to his country, on Saturday said his country is claiming the South African territory inhabited by Swazis, which Pretoria wants to turn into one of its "independent" homelands, it was learned in Mbabane on Sunday. The king on the occasion also summoned the Swazi ambassadors abroad. King Sobhuza added that his country is opposed to this South African territory inhabited by about 750-800 Swazis becoming a homeland and that it should be added to the kingdom.

ZAMBIA

OFFICIAL PROTESTS CONTINUED DETENTIONS BY ZAIRE

AB221003 Paris AFP in English 0927 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Lusaka, March 22 (AFP) -- A Zambian official has lodged complaints to Zaire over the continued detention of seven Zambian police officers following border skirmishes between the two countries last month.

Three Zairian soldiers were reported killed, a Zambian bus and its passengers were hijacked by Zairian troops and the seven policemen were captured by Zairian officials in an exchange of gunfire between Zambian and Zairian soldiers last month on their common border near Sakania. The bus and passengers were since released and the border between the two countries has been reopened for normal traffic, but the seven policemen remain in custody in Zaire.

Alex Shapi, a member of the Central Committee of Zambia's ruling United National Independence Party (UNIP), has expressed concern over the prolonged detention in his letter to Zaire's government. Mr Shapi said Zambia was finding it difficult to secure the release of the seven police officers "because we cannot force matters. We do not understand why our friends (the Zairians) continue to hold the police officers when they agreed to release them at our joint meeting in Lubumbashi recently," he added.

A meeting between Zairian and Zambian officials was held in the Zairian town of Lubumbashi a week ago to resolve the matter, but the Zambian policemen have still not been released.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE REVEALS ZAPU PLANS TO OVERTHROW ZANU

CA221216 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, says more arms caches still have to be dug up from ZAPU properties. Addressing a rally in Fort Victoria yesterday, Comrade Mugabe disclosed that ZAPU started to plot to overthrow a ZANU government while based in Zambia during the liberation struggle. Comrade Mugabe said during that time he received reports that ZAPU was withholding its crack forces and best weaponry for a final struggle to overthrow a ZANU government.